Saipan Iribune

MONDAY MARCH 23, 2015

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3 hurt after truck slams into pole



due to the demand of 'big boss'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Volume XXV, Issue No. 57

The name of House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) has been dragged into a lawsuit filed by a woman of Chinese descent who is suing Department of Public Lands and Secretary Pedro A. Tenorio in federal

court for allegedly cancelling her temporary agricultural and grazing permit because the "big boss" needed his land back.

Congxiang Su Palacios, through counsel Braddock J. Huesman, is suing DPL and Tenorio for breach of contract. In addition, she is suing Tenorio

See WOMAN on Page 4

Woman claims permit cancelled \$21M contract OK'd for Puerto Rico dump closure

By JAYSON CAMACHO jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com

After 12 years the final closure of the Puerto Rico dumpsite will finally pro-

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres told the agreement is in the final stages of Saipan Tribune that a \$21-million con-

tract has been signed for the project earlier this month.

>> Site to be converted into park

Despite the administration disclosing only sparse information, it was learned that a contract was already awarded to a contractor and

See \$21M on Page 4

wo women and an allegedly intoxicated male driver were injured when a pickup truck they were on ran off the road along Beach Road and slammed into a power pole near the Garapan basketball court, causing a power outage in the area early yesterday morning.

See 3 HURT on Page 4

More than 2,500 'Walk for the Red'

By JAYSON CAMACHO

More than 2,500 walkers joined the 29th Annual Red Cross Walkathon last Saturday morning, prompting or-

ganizers and American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John

➤ For related photos, go to PAGE 14

RELATED NEWS

Hirsh to declare the organization's signature fundraiser a success.

The walkathon started around 6am with more than a hundred walkers starting from the 4-H Building in Susupe going south for the 2K, 5K, and 10K distances.

Five aid stations were set up along the stretch from Beach Road toward Garapan (10K mark), manned by staff

See WALK on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

Giving the Settlement Fund \$15 million more each year for 10 years will make it self-sustaining.'

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HEALTH & **FITNESS**

Potatoes that won't bruise and apples that won't brown are a step closer to grocery stores. » PAGE 19



LIFE & STYLE

The song is over, with the Glee' series ending its tuneful six-season run.

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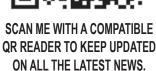




GOT A NEWS TIP?

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NMI 2015 February visitor arrivals up 4 percent

» FY 2015 visitor arrivals continue to rise

February 2015 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands rose 4 percent compared to February 2014. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 42,921 visitors in February 2015, compared to 41,311 visitors received in February 2014.

Arrivals from Korea soared 22 percent in February to 13,536 visitors. Jeju Air is planning to launch an additional daily flight to Saipan from Incheon from March 29 using a Boeing 737-800 with 186 seats, bringing an additional 67,890 seats to the NMI and ensuring extremely

rapid growth in Korean arrivals for the remainder of this year.

Arrivals from China also soared 24 percent in February to 18,905 visitors due to the 7-day Lunar New Year holiday in February. Almost all flights from China to the CNMI were fully sold out long before the holiday. National television network CCTV-5 also broadcast a major nationwide reality show "Is It Possible in 7 Days?" which chose Saipan as the subject of its "Is It Possible to Learn Diving in 7 Days?" program. The resulting three-part,

135-minute network television feature was broadcast in February, which sig-

nificantly

boost visibility for the CNMI among target Chinese travelers.

Arrivals from Japan fell 24 percent to 8,485 visitors in February as Asiana Airlines' suspension of Saipan services from Osaka for January to March impacted the Japan market very heavily, resulting in a 43.2-percent decrease in air sea supply in February. In addition, major Japanese travel agencies were unable to secure hotel rooms over the Lunar New Year period due to the rapid increase in Chinese arrivals and were hesitant to launch promotions during

the February period given the lack of hotel rooms. The MVA launched a variety of campaigns in February targeting the summer market, including the Happy Children in Paradise campaign; the new International Festival of Cultures campaign; participating in the Japan Golf Fair to continue to position the CNMI as a world-class golf destination; bringing a leading Japanese dive media outlet to the CNMI in February to feature Saipan, Tinian, and Rota as world-class dive destinations for Japanese divers; and finalizing plans with Asiana to send five charter flights to the CNMI in August.

Arrivals from Russia fell 90 percent to 110 visitors in February as a result of the suspension of direct flights in August. The MVA is launching discount

campaigns to the CNMI from Far East Russia throughout summer 2015 to begin rebuilding the Russian market in the face of severe economic pressures.

Economic highlights

The Japanese government kept its economic assessment unchanged for the month of February 2015; however, it also noted that consumers are beginning to become optimistic, citing the government's economic survey in January that showed the outlook diffusion index had risen for the first time in five months. The employment situation in Japan was also rated higher for the first time in 12 months. During the month of February, the yen remained virtually unchanged against the U.S. dollar at 118.59.

The growth rate for Korea's 2014 export volume was 4.4 percent, well above the 3.1 percent average level of global trade growth. The South Korean won/dollar exchange rate rose 3.63 won over the past month to close at 1,101.69 against the U.S. dollar.

A Chinese Academy of Sciences think tank predicts the economy will develop steadily in 2015, with GDP expanding by an estimated 7.2 percent, consisting of 7.1 percent growth in the first half and 7.3 percent in the second half. The value of the Chinese currency renminbi, or the yuan, weakened by 54 basis points to 6.1384 against the U.S. dollar in its central parity rate, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trading System. (MVA)



CONTRIBUTED PHOT

From left, Beijing TV Station journalist editor He Fang ZiSun, Century Tours China marketing manager Kimi Ling, Marianas Visitors Authority marketing specialist Laura Hsiao, and BTV journalist editor Lei Zheng visited the 360 Night Market on March 3, 2015, as part of the station's coverage of Saipan and the upcoming 10th Saipan Marathon on April 25, 2015.

Beijing TV touts 2015 Saipan Marathon

Beijing TV sports channel filmed on Saipan this month to prepare promotional programming for the island and the 10th Saipan Marathon on April 25, 2015.

A 20-minute program on the Northern Mariana Islands and the marathon will air to the station's 20 million viewers. BTV will also air a 30-second ad 10 times daily throughout the month of March.

"We're seeing incremental increases in the number of Chinese visitors joining the Saipan Marathon, and we hope the BTV coverage will further increase that number this year," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "Our emphasis is that the marathon offers shorter courses like the 10K and half-marathon for the lessfit athlete and that the attractions of the Northern Marianas are available to be enjoyed during marathon weekend and anytime throughout the year."

As part of its destination video, BTV will feature an island tour of Banzai Cliff, Suicide Cliff, and Bird Island Lookout, snorkeling at Grotto with Marianas Trekking, snorkeling, lunch and a tour of Managaha, standup paddle boarding with SUP SPN, an ATV tour of Mt. Tapochau with Let's Go Tour, a Seawalker tour, a discovery flight aerial tour, 360 Night Market, and the marathon route along Beach Road. Saipan athlete Mamiko Berger was also interviewed.

The 10th Saipan Marathon will feature marathon, half-marathon, 10K, and 50K courses.

Early registration for the 50K and marathon is \$55 for U.S. and NMI participants, and \$45 for half-marathon and 10K participants. Early registration must be made by March 27, 2015. An additional late fee of \$10 will apply to registrations submitted after March 27. The last day to reg-

ister for the event will be on April 10, 2015, at 5pm. Registration will include the awards banquet, a finishers T-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

The start will take place at the American Memorial Park at 4am for the 50k and the Marathon, at 5am for the half-marathon, and at 5:45am for the 10K. The cut-off time for the 50K and marathon will be 8:30am at the halfway point in front of Bridge Capital in Garapan.

All competitors are required to pick up their race packets on April 24, 2015, at American Memorial Park, without exception.

Entry forms are available at the MVA office located on Beach Road in San Jose or on the MVA official website Event Calendar at www.mymarianas.com. For more information contact Ed Diaz at the MVA at 664-3210 or through email at ediaz@mymarianas.com. (MVA)



Tourism is everybody's business.

Media Coverage Grows for 2015 Saipan Marathon

he 10th Saipan Marathon will feature marathon, half-marathon, 10K, and 50K courses on April 25, 2015.

Runners are encouraged to make the early registration deadline of March 27, 2015.

The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) has successfully with the editor of Courir magazine to bring a shooting crew to the Saipan Marathon. Courir is published by Baseball Magazine Sha Co. Ltd. and provides useful information for joggers and marathon runners in Japan. The resulting article will be published in the magazine's May issue. Also, Beijing TV (BTV) sports channel filmed in Saipan this month to prepare promotional programming for the island and the marathon and will return to cover the marathon, itself.

Early registration by March 27 for the 50K and marathon is \$55.00 for US and NMI participants, and \$45.00 for half-marathon and 10K participants. An additional late fee of \$10.00 will apply to



registrations submitted after March 27. The last day to register for the event will be on April 10, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. Registration will include the awards banquet, a finishers t-shirt, and a certificate of completion.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015 **3**

Local

Chinese teacher's lawsuit vs CBP officers terminated

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has terminated the lawsuit filed by a Chinese teacher who sued eight U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers.

Manglona terminated the lawsuit after Yu Min Zhao neither filed an amended complaint nor an opposition to CBP officer Dennis Jacobs' motion.

On Jan. 12, 2015, the court granted Jacobs' motion for judgment on the pleadings, but allowed Zhao to amend her complaint no later than Jan. 27, 2015.

The day before the amendment came due, the parties in the lawsuit asked to extend the deadline to file the amended complaint to Feb. 2, 2015. The court granted the request.

In her order on Thursday, Manglona said the Feb. 2 deadline came but no amended complaint was filed.

Manglona granted Jacobs' motion for final judgment on the pleadings. The judge also dismissed all claims against the other defendants, who were never identified or served.

Zhao, through counsel Samuel Mok, sued Jacobs and seven other unnamed CBP officers for allegedly denying her entry to Saipan on suspicion that she was pregnant. She claims she was handcuffed, her face slammed against the wall, and placed in isolation for 22 hours.

Settlement Fund targets May launch of audit software

A pension system audit software to help the CNMI Settlement Fund is expected to be launched by May.

In a report, Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C.H. Tang said the design and installation of the software has been completed after trial runs in January.

Tang said the information generated by the software showed that "fine tuning" of the software was required and in order to validate the results, the Settlement Fund staff reviewed approximately 50 files to verify the calculations.

The Settlement Fund is prioritizing its work to finalize calculations in order to launch the pension audit software prior to the target launch of May, Tang said.

Initial findings

According to Tang, the initial findings of the pension audit software during the trial run showed an "overpayment" to 276 members, reaching \$1.5 million, and an "underpayment" to 124 members reaching \$330.526.

Settlement Fund administra-See SETTLEMENT on Next Page Zhao alleged that her husband, Li, was admitted to Saipan without incident.

Attorney Mok stated in the complaint that Zhao, a school teacher in China, wanted to visit Saipan with her husband, Li, as a tourist for one week of vacation.

Mok said the incident happened on Oct. 18, 2013, at

3:10am, soon after the couple arrived on Saipan from Beijing via a China Easter Airlines



charter flight.

Jacobs denied the allegations against him.



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Senate passes several bills on Rota session

joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com

The Senate passed several key bills during its regular session on Rota on Friday.

According to Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota), it was a "productive session" with the Senate passing Senate Bills 19-02, 19-21, 19-27, and 19-28.

The first bill, S.B. 19-02, seeks to provide "a healthy closure with the outgoing mayor, provide a sufficient timeframe to review and plan closed and ongoing projects beginning two weeks after certification from the Commonwealth Election Commission, and to assure a successful transition in mayoral leadership."

Santos said she prefiled S.B. 19-02 after the Legislature found that there are currently no provisions or procedures for a successful transition for a mayor-elect into office.

The proposed bill, to be called Mayoral Transition Act of 2015, if passed, also mandates the mayor-elect and temporary employees "to work with the incumbent mayor and his/her offi-

for violation of her due process

Palacios asked the U.S. Dis-

trict Court for the NMI to hold

DPL and Tenorio liable to pay

her damages, attorney's fee, and

Saipan Tribune tried but

In Palacios' lawsuit filed

on Thursday, Huesman said

the lawsuit was prompted by

Tenorio's and DPL's attempts

to curry favor with politically

powerful persons of Northern

Marianas descent over those of

Huesman said Palacios is

the victim of collateral damage

that occurred due to the political

intrigue and machinations sur-

rounding the impeachment of for-

The lawyer said that House

mer governor Benigno R. Fitial.

failed to get Tenorio's comment

WOMAN

and equal protection.

From Page 1

court costs.

about the lawsuit.

Chinese descent.

cials and/or Cabinet members to provide for the orderly transfer of power.'

S.B. 19-21, introduced by Sens. Victor B. Hocog, Francisco Borja, Jude U. Hofschneider, and Arnold I. Palacios, calls for the transfer of funds allocated for Rota and Tinian to their respective municipal treasury "in order to effectively and efficiently manage, control, and account for its funds."

HONOLULU—The Coast

Guard suspended the search

Saturday for an overdue 83-

foot commercial fishing vessel

near the Republic of Marshall

Fishing vessel Clear Water

02 reportedly went missing

with nine people aboard while

en route Majuro for offload,

"Suspending a search is never

an easy decision and is only

done after intense scrutiny and

evaluation of our search efforts

as a whole," said Lt. Justin Gear,

JRCC Honolulu command duty

officer. "We offer our sincere

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guer-

rero (Ind-Saipan) had a tempo-

rary agricultural and grazing

permit. Unfortunately, Hues-

man said, Deleon Guerrero ne-

glected to sign the renewal and

pay the permit and processing

fees required by the permit.

Around the same time, Pala-

cios was attempting to lease a

parcel of public land. DPL gave

Palacios temporary authoriza-

According to court records,

on Feb. 28, 2013, Antonio A.

and Congxiang Su Palacios,

owners of SA Farming, asked

for authorization to use 48,000

square meters of public land

in Unni Dangkulu, Saipan, to

develop a commercial orchard

for dragon fruit and other fruits.

The term of the temporary use

was for four months beginning

on Feb. 28, 2013, and ending on

Almost immediately after be-

June 27, 2013.

DPL canceled the permit.

tion to use public land.

March 12.

The proposed legislation also calls for the Department of Finance to deposit the funds for Rota and Tinian to their respective Municipal Treasury within 10 days.

S.B. 19-27, introduced by Hocog, seeks to make "electronic impersonation" a crime in the CNMI.

The bill cited impersonation by electronic means or "epersonation" that is intended to harm or defraud the person impersonated is a growing trend around the world, including the Commonwealth.

"It occurs when thieves, scam artists, or people who want revenge use the Internet to pretend to be someone else, either by creating a fake Facebook or other Web profile, or by communicating via email with third parties while pretending to be someone else," the bill reads.

S.B. 19-28, introduced by Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz, seeks to

exempt vehicles used by elected

Coast Guard suspends search for missing fishing boat condolences to the families and friends of the missing crew." Tuesday and Friday.

> A Coast Guard aircraft searched 49,837 square miles totaling 44 search hours. Ten good Samaritan vessels also assisted in search efforts. A Navy P-3 Orion airplane from U.S. Navy 7th Fleet searched Thursday and Friday covering an additional 8,747 square miles.

Sunday, good Samaritan vessels recovered 34 fishing floats labeled "CW02" 224 miles east of Majuro. Two life rings marked "Clearwater 02" were located by one of the fishing vessels searching 114 miles

including purchasing dragon

fruit and betel nut plantings,

A month after Palacios got

the authorization, Tenorio called

Palacios into his office at DPL,

where he said he was cancel-

ing the authorization because

the "big boss" needed his land

He said Palacios was con-

fused by what "big boss" meant

and Tenorio then explained that

Deleon Guerrero needed the

land back and that it should not

have been taken from him in the

sense as Speaker Guerrero

clearly failed to pay the required

Huesman said Palacios ob-

jected and stated she did not

want to give up the authoriza-

tion, but Tenorio became angry,

slammed his hand on the desk,

and told her the "big boss" was

fees," the lawyer said.

"This statement makes no

back, Huesman said.

first place.

Huesman said.

south east of Kwajalein on

At 5:26pm March 12, watchstanders at the Joint Rescue Coordination Center in Honolulu received notification from the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Majuro after the vessel failed to return to port as scheduled. An HC-130 Hercules airplane crew launched from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point at 8:39pm March 12.

Clear Water 02 is a Federated States of Micronesiaflagged vessel with one Marshallese and eight Chinese nationals aboard. (USCG)

invested thousands of dollars, getting the land back. time, and effort for her venture,

department ever gave a written reason for its actions—the only reason given was that the Speaker of the NMI House of Representatives, the big boss was more important than Mrs.

Huesman pointed out that Palacios is of Chinese descent and has little or no political power in

Huesman said the contractual rights found in the authorization are clearly established under the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Huesman said that Tenorio, through DPL, has interfered with the authorization without a written notice.

Given that the "big boss" has an interest in the land because he is an important person of Northern Marianas descent and the plaintiff is of Chinese descent is not a legal or valid reason to breach the authorization,

"Neither Tenorio nor the Palacios," Huesman said.

the CNMI.

the lawyer said.

The scope of work includes the installation of dump static and seismic slope stability, in-

It adds that "in addition to the the installation of landscape and hardscape site enhancement and solar LED integrated pathway, construction of a restroom, parking area, access road site lighting

"This project will also include the conversion of the dump into a passive park which will include landscapes/hardscapes, elements as well as a relief area on the top deck for events."

officials from the window tinting restrictions and government license plate requirement.

According to the proposed

bill, "this will ensure that elected officials cannot be easily attacked while traveling on the road or in a parked vehicle.'

WALK

From Page 1

of Pacific Islands Club, Micronesian Brokers, Inc., Bank of Hawaii, Coca-Cola, and Western Union. They provided water, sports drinks, fruits, and giveaways to participants.

At the event's staging area in front of the 4-H Building, more than 20 government agencies and businesses set up booths dispensing information and giving away more freebies to participants, who enjoyed numerous activities and refreshments before and after the walk.

Among the favorites were the face-painting, health screening, table activities set up by some of the agencies, and game booths.

Wearing different colored shirts—ARC substituted the usual red hue for green to honor the military—participants along the walk told Saipan Tribune that they have been supporting the walkathon for almost 15 years.

"It is always different. I like the change in color, though, not only because it's my favorite but I also support our troops out there protecting our country. So ARC seems to be supporting both victims and troops," said one participant who wanted to remain anonymous.

Other participants during quick interviews all had one thing in common: "We're here to support our schools and the walkathon."

The annual fundraiser saw a bigger turnout this year, thanks mainly to additional participants gathered through ARC's

involvement with schools.

"We're hoping that the bigger turnout would raise more proceeds to fund ARC in its humanitarian mission," ARC board member Larry Lee said.

Hirsh said that everyone liked the military-themed shirts this year.

Saying the health fair was more coordinated this year, he singled out Ayuda Network's Diana Camacho for playing a major role in ensuring that all partner agencies were there.

"None of this could be possible without the volunteers, the donors, and everyone else that partnered with us and the timing couldn't be better because we just had Tropical Storm Bavi. Around 60 homes on Saipan and Tinian were destroyed in the storm's aftermath. We're also working with volunteers in Guam to come here and help," Hirsh said.

When asked if the proceeds would go to the victims, Hirsh replied that accounting and how the money is managed is not a simple thing. "Everything gets processed but there are no question that it will go to help those victims and, ves, some of the proceeds will be handed out to them."

Hirsh said that winners will be announced in the next two or three days including the amount of funds raised.

Last year's walkathon raised over \$65,000 and had a total of 2,512 walkers.

"It's a lot of work and we have over 30 schools and make sure the pledges and dollars match and tabulate everything. Once we're done we will let everyone know," he said.

3 HURT

From Page 1

The two female passengers ages 22 and 23, both Chamorros—sustained serious injuries and were brought to the Commonwealth Health Center, according to Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero.

He said the driver, a 26-yearold Caucasian male, was also taken to CHC and later cited for several violations, including driving while under the influence of alcohol.

He said none of the occupants were wearing their seatbelts at the time of the crash.

Police officer Raymond S.

Pangelinan discovered the crash yesterday at 3:12am and medics were then summoned to the scene and transported the three victims to CHC.

The vehicle, a gray F150 four-door pickup, sustained extensive damage and the operator of the vehicle was cited for several violations, including DUI.

"We will be withholding their names at this time and more details will be released tomorrow," Deleon Guerrero said.

Saipan Tribune learned that the accident triggered a power outage in the area after the transformer at the pole exploded or burned. Commonwealth Utilities Corp. crew responded to fix the power pole.

SETTLEMENT

From Page 3

tor Lilian Pangelinan said the figures shown in the initial findings are subject to manual checking and a "three-level" review.

Pangelinan said there are still "data discrepancies," and these are some of the probable reasons for the "overpayments."

She also cited bonuses given

to elected officials, which depend on the years of service that the official has rendered. Another factor, Pangelinan said, is the COLA (cost of living allowance) also given to elected officials.

She assured that the Settlement Fund will work on issuing notices to members once the findings of the pension audit software are validated.

(Joel D. Pinaroc)

\$21M

From Page 1

completion.

During their inauguration in January, Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Torres promised that the administration would work toward the closure of the Puerto Rico dump.

Torres said that it was "a process since last year.'

"Now that a contractor won the bid we are going to do construction on the first phase. Hopefully we will be seeing something in the next couple of months, hopefully by summer,"

In a separate interview, Capital Improvement Projects administrator Virginia Villagomez confirmed that they are going

to have a groundbreaking but it has no estimated timetable yet.

ing given the permit, Palacios

"The great thing to note about this project is that it will be converted into a park," she said.

Documents obtained show that a grant request for \$20 million for fiscal year 2015 from the CIP office has been earmarked for the Puerto Rico dump closure.

Project description

Puerto Rico dump is located at the northwestern coast of Garapan on Saipan adjacent and southeast of Able Dock and Saipan Harbor and bordered by the Tanapag Lagoon.

It was used for the disposal of nonhazardous solid waste between the years of 1950 and February 2003, after which time

the government stopped accepting waste and began operation off-site at the solid waste transfer station and at the Marpi landfill.

"The government intends to convert Puerto Rico Dump into a public parkland by stabilizing and sealing PRD in accordance with the final closure and postclosure requirements approved by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency and the government of the NMI, and Division of Environmental Quality," the document states.

The goal is to reduce migration of contaminated water into the lagoon, protect the toe and slopes of the dump from erosion, control storm-water, collect and safely treat or vent landfill gas, and provide limited public access while meeting full

compliance with EPA administrative order on consent.

stallation of drainage and erosion control, installation of landfill gas system and the final cover system. base bid, additives will include

system, and site landscapes."

Hospital shows off new electric beds

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. showed off Friday its brand new electric beds to Gov. Eloy S. Inos and lawmakers at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Aside from Inos, Reps. Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), and Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) joined CHCC board chair Jack Torres in the presentation.

Hospital CEO Esther Muña thanked Inos and the 18th Legislature for the local appropriation that made the purchase possible. She also extended her gratitude to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Delegate Gregorio

Kilili Camacho C. Sablan (Ind-MP) who also contributed in the acquisition of the new equipment.

Saipan Local Law 18-17 appropriated \$250,000 to purchase new beds for CHC. USDA Community Facilities Grant gave an additional \$50,000 last year.

"With the total funding of \$300,000, we purchased 30 electric hospital beds with mattress, two ICU beds, 10 prevention surface mattresses, and two birthing beds," Muña said.

She said the new beds are of great value to CHC patients as they are more comfortable, safer, and could better prevent pressure ulcers or bedsores.

"It will also be of value to nurses because it prevents injury to nurses, able to provide less time in maneuvering the patients, and more time on direct patient care," Muña said.

"The beds that will be replaced have been in the hospital since the hospital opened in 1986. Some of the beds will be donated to patients who are bedridden," she added.

Contact CHC's hospital administrator for requests for bed donations.

"Any leftover beds may be donated elsewhere in the Pacific and we will assess the need soon to determine that," she said. (Jayson Camacho)







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By DENNIS B. CHAN

Guam last week.

Sleepless, nervous, but tri-

umphant-Do Re Mi Music

School students won big at the

Tumon Bay Music Festival in

For their solo performances,

Judy Kim and Kevin Liang

won gold medals, while Alan

Yu, Alexander Chen, and Jane

The students are all from

Saipan Community School.

Torres took home silver.









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Do Re Mi Music School violinists finished strong in last week's Tumon Bay Music Festival competition.

Dennis B. Chan



Do Re Mi school wins big in Guam music festival

The students, their parents, and Do Re Mi founder and teacher Ao Zhang told the *Saipan Tribune* that the kids practiced as much as half a year, sometimes eight hours in a day, leading up to the competition.

It was worth it, they said. Kim also won the "Judge's choice" award and Liang got an honorable mention, despite the sleepless hours the student faced leading up to the event.

Because of problems with flight delays and cancellations, Zhang said it took them around 13 to 14 hours to get to Guam. Their original seats to Guam were delayed, and then cancelled, he said.

Because of that, they wemt to Guam via Korea, and arrived in Guam on the morning of the competition.

"Ridiculous," Zhang said. How did they manage to do it? "Drink Powerade," said Liang.

Chen said it was hard to

sleep, especially when there were things on your mind. Yu said he got some rest on the plane. Kim said it was nerve-wracking because the showcase felt like an audition. Players sat, and one by one got up to play for judges, she said.

"My legs were shaking," she added. But Liang claimed he was not nervous, just excited.

"Probably in the beginning," Chen said, when asked if he had some nerves. "But as you kept playing and you remember the notes and all your practice, you just get into the music and play for yourself and the audience."

The students thanked Do Re Mi for teaching them and helping with their practice over the years. "I feel very fortunate [to Do Re Mi] for teaching me how to play such a beautiful instrument," said Chen.

"Without our teachers we wouldn't place," added Yu.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The Office of the Governor, CIP Office & Maeda Pacific Corporation

Announce the start of the Garapan Water Quality Restoration project on 23 March 2015. All residents and businesses along Alaihai, Puti Tainobu, Filooris, Bukiku & Kalachucha Avenues are hereby advised that construction of a new flood control system is in progress.

Construction will cause temporary closure of the above mentioned avenues from time to time. All efforts will be taken to minimize inconvenience to the public.

Upon completion this summer, residents and businesses along these avenues will enjoy a new drainage system, sidewalks, paved driveways and brand new pavement.

The Governor & Maeda Pacific Corporation ask you to please "Pardon our Progress" as we work to improve the CNMI.

Public market to apply for OIA solar power grant

CUC asked to

proposal;

CUC board

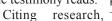
gives OK

The Garapan Public Market is looking to the sun for its energy needs.

Through a representative, CNMI Farmer's Cooperative Association president Maria "Frica" Pangelinan asked the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board to endorse a grant proposal to the Office of Insular Affairs for procurement and installment of a photovoltaic system, estimated to produce 25,100-kilowatt hours of power for the market each year.

According to the co-op's written testimony, the preferred system is a Tier 1 photovoltaic module with a 25-year limited warranty.

The system would generate no less than 80 percent of rated output under standard test conditions, the testimony reads. Pangilinan



Pangelinan said these panels have the "most module efficient at 16 percent or greater."

For their system, the co-op is proposing polycrystalline modules that generate 16.16 percent module efficiency.

Pangelinan noted that the market's existing roof create limitations for solar module

maximum number of panels that can be installed is 73. She said the exposed beams of the roof create shading and obstructions. "It is determined that

feet of solar modules) would be most suitable. That equates to a total connected solar wattage of 18.6 kilowatts at standard test conditions," testimony

reads.

generate an average of 69.75

60 panels of 310 watt

modules (1,248 square

layouts, saying the kWh per day; 2,092.5 kWh per month; and 25,100 kWh per year. Right now, the market's average power consumption is 5,000 kWh, according to Pangelinan.

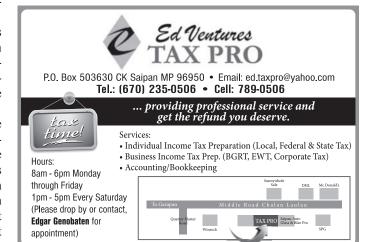
Data from daily readings during peak sunlight hours in the last week indicate an average of 118.4 kWh consumption. The estimated module watt is 97.65.

"Therefore, the endorse grant proposed PV system is to allow the market to offset its consumption with a minimal 21 kWh remaining for net

This module is estimated to metering—a nominal impact to CUC.

ten endorsement before their grant proposal deadline on April 10. CUC board members

The co-op asked for a writ- approved and supported the plan, and urged CUC management to follow through with the written endorsement.







SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown · Some conditions apply · On approved credit · See dealer for details · While Supplies last. *EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

Kia Rio LX retail price \$16,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$269.22 or \$124.26 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$16,153.20.

Kia Forte LX retail price \$17,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$285.06 or \$131.57 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$17,103.60.

Kia Soul LX retail price \$18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$300.90 or \$138.88 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$18,054.00.

Kia Sportage LX retail price \$22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$356.34 or \$164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$21,380.40.

Kia Sedona LX retail price \$30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$490.99 or \$226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$29,459.40.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PH consulate to host mobile outreach on Saipan

The Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam will host a mobile consular outreach on Saipan on March 25-27, 2015, at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The schedule for biometrics capturing of the pre-processed passport applications is already available. To avoid delays in the processing of applications, applicants are advised not to fold copies of the original scanned requirements that were sent to us in advance.

Please note that all ePassport applications require personal appearance. Wear proper attire with collar.

Applicants included on the list are advised to be present in the venue on the time and date

indicated in the schedule. Time slot of the "no show" applicants will be cancelled. (PCG)

Military training at FDM, **Warning Area 517**

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and

- March 23, from 10:30am
- March 24, from 7am to 5pm
- March 25, from 4pm to 8:30pm
- March 26, from 6:50-7:50am and 1-8:30pm
- March 27, from 10:30am

The military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

■ March 23, from 4am to 6pm

March 24-27, from 12:01am to 11:59pm

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators-are advised to stay clear from the areas during the dates and times indicated.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. This will affect fishing in the vicinity of Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank. (PR)

MHS junior classes to take part in seminar

All junior classes of Marianas High School will be participating in the upcoming Start Smart Seminar sponsored by Northern Marinas College on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, from 8:30am to 2:45pm, at the Saipan World



WAY TO GO KIXTER!

Congratulations to tina Jane for being a National Speech and Debate regional winner. She won second place in Dramatic Interpretation and fifth place in Humorous Interpretation. Kristina Jane is a member of the 2015 CNMI National Team preparing for the NJSDA National Tournament in Dallas, Texas. We are super proud of you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

students about the process of applying for college, the benefits of getting a degree, as well

Resort. This event will teach scholarship and financial aid opportunities. Transportation and lunch will be provided on this day. *(MHS)*

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Belated happy birthday to my sweet goddaughter, Kimani Jaeri C. Santos, who celebrated her special day on March 21, 2015. I hope you enjoyed your party just as much as your daddy and

the family enjoyed setting it up for you. Nina Tinie and Nino Craig really miss you and we can't wait to see you. Enjoy your monster high theme because you deserve it. May the Lord bless you with many more birthdays to come. I love you, my biha girl! Greetings come from your nina and nino in Guam.

Happy 5th birthday to our "Hulk," Franklin Jon K. Laniyo! May your day be as joyful as you are and God bless you always! Bear hugs and kisses from Kai, MyLia, Mommy, and Daddy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By order of the court, GRANTED Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio

TIMOTHY H. BELLAS, LLC

Attorney-at-Law 2nd Floor JET Bldg., Suite 204 P.O. Box 502845 Saipan, MP 96950 Email: timothy@bellaslawfirm.com Telephone: (670) 323-2115

ATTORNEY FOR: Plaintiffs

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

EFRAIN F. CAMACHOand,) CIVIL CASE WILLIAM F. CAMACHO NO. 15-0028 ESTATE OF DOLORES DLG. NOTICE OF ORDER

TO APPEAR AKA DOLORES S. DELEON OR PLEAD **GURRERO** AND DOES I-V 7 CMC § 1301, 1302

Based on an Ex Parte Motion for an Order to Appear or Plead pursuant to 7 CMC § 1301, by Plaintiffs, the court has entered an Order to Appear or Plead. Wherefore, any person or entity having any interest in the Estate of Dolores DLG Atalig aka Dolores Deleon Guerrero that desires to defend against this action brought against the Estate, must appear or plead, within twenty-one (21) days from the date that this Notice last appears in this newspaper. The failure of any party to appear or plead within this time period will result in the entry of Judgment for the Plaintiffs, granting the relief demanded by the Plaintiffs' in

Name: Xu Zhang Yu Saipan, MP 96950 Telephone No. 285-6118

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

FCD PA CIVIL ACTION Plaintiff(s). NO. 15-0113 SUMMONS

Yu Yan Feng

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Plaintiff(s), Xu Zhang Yu, whose mailing address is P.O. Box 505659, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for Filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at the Civic Center, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appeal personally

until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for

Dated this 4th day of March, 2015.

/s/ Clerk of Court Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

BANK OF SAIPAN

their Complaint

Plaintiff,

RUDOLF W. LEIS and HELGA G.G. LEIS Defendants

CIVIL ACTION NO.: 14-0148

NOTICE OF **FORECLOSURE SALE**

Lot 012 J 17, (part of lot 012 J 06; part of original Tract 22723-A H 61), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 012 J 01, the original of which was recorded February 3, 1994 as Document No. 94-341 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.



Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale is open to the general public (including the Defendants), and will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2015, at the hour of 11:00 a.m. at the entrance to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, D' Torres Bldg, Middle Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI. Registration for the auction sale will begin at 10:45 a.m.

Lau Lau Heights Property! 40 years remaining on leasehold for sale! Contact Micheline "Mich" Brel at 670-235-8060 or 670-789-0513 for more information! Don't miss out this chance to have an awesome oceanview home!

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **Department of Community and Cultural Affairs**

Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007

Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950



(CCDF) PROGRAM

SUMMER PROGRAM 2015 ANNOUNCEMENT

The Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program announces an opportunity for non-profit, community/faith based organizations to participate in a Summer Program Grant for 2015. This grant is open to organizations that offer Summer Programs to all school-aged children between the ages 6 to 13 years old. For this grant, a total of ten (10) awards will be provided. CCDF has the right to award smaller grant awards as appropriate.

CCDF Summer Program Grant Application Packets maybe picked up at the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program Office, Building No. 1347 Ascension Court, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 9690

Interested applicants should submit one (1) original and six (6) copies of the completed application and requirements, sealed and marked: CCDF Summer Program Grant Application 2015. All applications must be stamped received no later than April 10, 2015 at 3:00p.m. Incomplete applications will be returned. Faxed and e-mailed applications will not be reviewed and will be returned to the applicant.

Inquiries regarding this grant opportunity should be addressed to Roselle Teregeyo, CCDF Accountant/Summer Program Lead before March 27, 2015 and can be made in the following way:

- In writing and forwarded to the address above or 1.
- Thru e-mail at ccdf.roselleteregeyo@gmail.com

All inquiries made after March 27, 2015 will not be entertained. Phone inquiries will not be accepted.

Approved for distribution:

/s/ Laura T. Ogumoro **DCCA Secretary**

Date: March 17, 2015

Tan Holdings joins millions around the world in celebrating Earth Hour and encourages everyone to take a stand against climate change.



28 MARCH 2015 8:30 - 9:30PM LOCAL TIME

USE YOUR POWER TO CHANGE CLIMATE CHANGE

JOIN THE MOVEMENT. BE PART OF THE MISSION TO SAVE THE PLANET.



SWITCH OFF

Switch off all your non-essential lights from 8:30 to 9:30 pm on Saturday, March 28, 2015.



SPREAD THE WORD

Help raise the profile of the Earth Hour movement by encouraging people to support the cause.



10 MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Opinion



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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

Statement on full legalization of marijuana in the CNMI

By AMBROSE M. BENNETT

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ambrose Bennett is a former teacher and an advocate for the full legalization of marijuana in the Commonwealth.



Editor's Note: The following is the text of the testimony that the author presented during the public hearings on Rota on Senate Bill 19-06, a bill proposing to legalize the medical use of marijuana in the Commonwealth.

Last part of a series

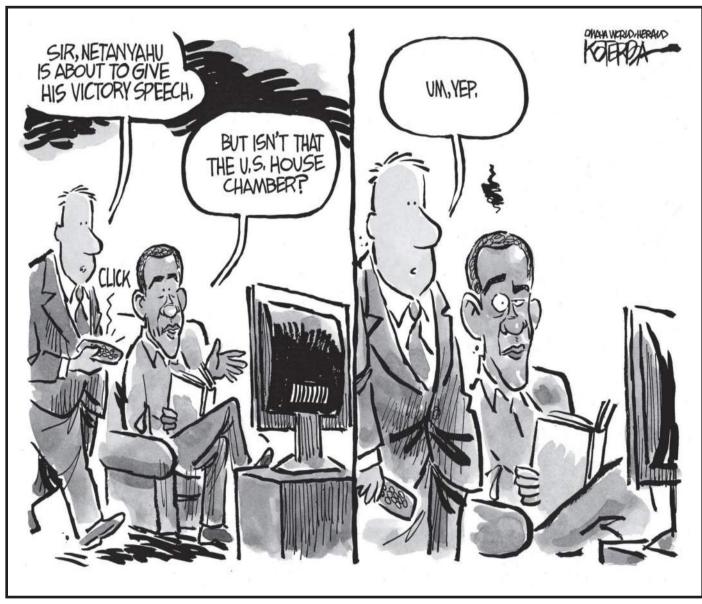
f this bill passes as it is, the CNMI will still fail to be in compliance with our commander-in-chief's public directive to stop locking up our youth for marijuana procession as we will still be locking up our youth under this medical marijuana bill. The medical bill will also generate rather than eliminate crime. There will be a mad rush to fraudulently acquire marijuana if legalized for medical use only, which will surely be troublesome. But full legalization will eliminate any and all marijuana fraud and crimes. We have to be careful when we try to legislate morality as the recreational use of marijuana is strictly a moral and ethical issue for educators and the church, not politicians. We should have learned as far back as Prohibition when we created the first mobsters by legislating morality on alcohol and we created the cartels more recently when we declared the War on Drugs. Making medical marijuana legal will surely create organized crime in the CNMI as there is just too much money involved and we know if they will smuggle cigarettes, there is no limit on what they will do to capture the big marijuana dollar.

I am sure by now this body is well aware that marijuana is the least addictive of all drugs on the federal list of addicting drugs, which includes alcohol and tobacco. There shouldn't be any need for skepticism with marijuana when alcohol and tobacco have killed and are still killing people. There has never been one single death that was attributed entirely to the use of marijuana. Yes, people have died with marijuana in their system but it was something else that killed them. I would like to ask the senators a question: Would you rather ride in a car with a drunk or a person who has just smoked a joint? You don't have to answer but I'm sure most of you would choose the marijuana driver, which reveals the norm that now exist in our society—marijuana is better and safer than alcohol.

Everyday there is more and more revealing facts and revelations that support the need and realities of legalization. The legalization of marijuana reform in America is now in its 19th year—started by California in 1996—so this is not something new! Since that time there are seven things that I wish to share which continue to push marijuana reform that is supported by the President, the U. S. Attorney General and many members of Congress. Please keep in mind that the large dollar amounts you are about to hear about are for one year so just imagine the wealth and prosperity over time.

1. \$699 million in combined sales for the first year in Colorado: This fact alone should be enough proof for everyone in the CNMI to say that we must at least try to legalize marijuana for all uses.

See MARIJUANA on Next Page



Manhood Day ala Lino and Dave

e had International Women's Day not too long ago, and we recall that after the commercial success of Mother's Day, the holding of Father's Day was not too far behind. I do not know when the Chamber of Commerce will create a potentially rich shopping day but I suspect it is not for long. We had international women's day a couple of weeks ago; the day for men will follow (already observed in India and Russia) but I am declaring mine for March 22.

My Papa after whom I was named would have been 103 today in Honolulu where he died at 95, two years past recognizing who I was. I often mention him as my primal role model of manhood when growing up until I could hold up a candle on my own.

In Europe's tradition of chivalry, the female is, at best, adored and adorned. She is considered less to be taken seriously as she is one to be pawed and pawned over, or strutted unemotionally down the catwalk wearing boutique clothes that hardly anyone wears or buys. The trails of patriarchy, except for very few places in the world, still sadly prevail.

This is not a lament on matriarchy, or a paean for patriarchy; it is rather a song for manhood, the kind where selfhood is expressed and exuded *sans* machismo. Two literary role models come to the fore on Saipan in my circle of acquaintances.

Lino Olopai, in his introspective account of the Carolinian tradition titled *Rope of Tradition*, takes readers to a reflective and geographical journey of the Carolinian migration to the Marianas, and when it was that he decided to uphold tradition in a fading world impinged upon by modern land-based cultural understandings, without regard for the art and discipline of canoe building and ocean navigation.

Lino propagates indigenous and off-island seedlings on his leeward side farm in Mt. Tapochau but he sails the lagoon from his hut in Chalan Kanoa, at one time entertaining a whole 6th grade class on retreat from regular SVES classes. His dwelling, shaded by tall sandbar ironwood trees and undulating coconut trees by the lagoon, remains a quaint shoreline littered with leeside flat *proas*; the area now buffeted by real estate development with a newly constructed multistoried building on his south side. His book is reportedly included as a reading in a UCLA class this term. To come to Saipan without dropping in on his shoreline is a serious misdemeanor!

Uncle Dave Sablan is our other male role model. Son of the former second mayor of Saipan, one of 13 children, he is an activist of Olympian zest and proportions, and it is amazing how he covered every step of his tracks with a modestly titled book, *A Degree of*

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



Success Through Curiosity. He knows how to communicate, his apologies on language notwithstanding. Pictures are worth a thousand words, and his book is littered with many.

If Lino sailed the open seas on his handmade *proa*, Dave Sablan rode on the modern tidal waves that left footprints way off beyond the sands of Saipan. Mr. Sablan took the new world by the horns without the glitter of the vaunted academic credentials and galloped like a cowboy in Saipan's Cowtown with much relish. He took seriously the two-century-old experiment on individual freedom from the continent of North America and did the same across Micronesia with commerce and industry. An indefatigable doer, with an array of awards and recognitions under his belt and on his home mantle, he remains socially and professionally active.

It is not as if he keeps his emotions hidden for he is ever gracious and all-smiles to everyone. His account of his family's ordeal during the invasion of Saipan by U.S. forces against the soldiers of Imperial Japan tugs at the heartstrings deeply but his telling of his family's ordeal does not look as being in praise of personae, his or his family, as it is an outpouring of selfhood and service toward a resolve to survive and create a new Northern Mariana Islands in the process. He is a man of action who deigns to play so many roles that even in the ripe age of the sunset of his years, he continues to head a business and participates in the social scenes of Saipan.

Lino Olopai and Dave Sablan, both former marshals of Liberation Day parades, may be a bit my seniors in age but they serve more as elder peers who exemplify with deeds the preserving "the internal feel" of a fading past, and the lively domestication of future shock rude awakenings. They serve well as male role models for the islands and to this admirer.

I am sure there are other literary accounts of folks' journeys around Micronesia, but for now, with Lino Olopai and David Sablan, I hold my Dad up (his literary talent was translating Sunday School materials into Ilocano in Hawaii) on my choice date of Happy Manhood Day!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500

words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

House of cards and other games

ow that the government has given Best Sunshine International the green light to set up a \$25 million temporary Saipan casino to serve as a "live" training facility starting in "June or July," the Commonwealth Casino Commission must really be racing against time to draft the regulations that will govern the touted multibillion casino industry.

The last thing Saipan needs is an unregulated casino industry if no regulations are in place before the temporary casino opens on the ground floor of T Galleria in Garapan. Parts of the casino legalization process have already proven to be not inspiring confidence to begin with.

Under the law, casino commissioners are compensated \$40,000 on the first year. They will be compensated \$20 an hour for official meetings in succeeding years. The expectation is that the commissioners have already started drafting the regulations that they earlier said could be patterned after those adopted in Macau, Singapore, the Philippines, Rota, Tinian, and Las Vegas in Nevada.

A casino operation on Saipan was initially not expected until at least 2016. That would have given the commission more time to finalize the regulations. But Best Sunshine's timeline and plans for its promised \$7.1-billion integrated casino resort have changed, with

MARIJUANA

From Page 10

- 2. \$76 million in combined tax and licensing revenue for Colorado: Unlike Colorado, the moratorium I proposed to legalize-IT makes the CNMI's marijuana industry a government operation in partnership with a private investor. The CNMI will collect 100 percent of the revenues and share only 25 percent with a private investor, which will make the CNMI more profitable than all of the existing states combined who have fully legalized-IT. The great part is the CNMI won't have to spend a single penny to get this industry started and running if the moratorium/partnership methodology I proposed is followed.
- **3.** Recreational marijuana comprised only 36 percent of total sales: This proves that the local people and our youth are not going to go crazy to smoke marijuana. Medical use is still the main purpose and it was visitors to Colorado who pushed the sales as their tourists industry *increased* revenues by \$1.3 billion. Colorado is now the marijuana capital of the world in one year, taking the title from Amsterdam!
- **4. More than 500,000 plants were cultivated:** This fact should have all the CNMI farmers and those who want to farm piling into the public hearings to promote legalization to fulfill their American dream of becoming a "self-made millionaire".
- **5. 2.85 million units of edible retail products were sold:** In Colorado, edible marijuana-infused retail products surpassed the sale of medical marijuana-infused products. By the end of the year, edible recreational products had totaled 2.85 million, compared to 1.96 million for the medically infused market. This means locals can start their own product lines of edibles that can be sold at the state-operated stores under the moratorium. The good and exceptional local products will even stand a good chance of becoming an exported product to Guam and the U.S. if marketed properly.
- 6. 99.2 percent retail homogeneity test pass rate: Of the 2,261 homogeneity tests performed at the retail licensing level, 99.2 percent passed, while 98.2 percent of the potency tests administered on edible retail products wound up passing. The key point being that legally grown marijuana appears to be adhering to strict regulatory growing standards. With the CNMI having a government-controlled operation under the moratorium, there will never be a concern for the growth and use of marijuana and marijuana products that do not meet the CNMI government's standards.
- **7. 249 jurisdictions still ban marijuana:** Unlike Colorado, which still has 249 jurisdictions in the state where marijuana use is still illegal leading to problems, the CNMI's moratorium will encompass the entire CNMI. There won't be any jurisdiction issues.

I can only hope and pray that you will leave Rota with the belief that the CNMI needs to declare a moratorium to experiment with full legalization as a government operation—a new industry for the CNMI with a potential for hundreds of millions in revenues, tourists visitors in the millions, hundreds and even thousands of good paying jobs created over time, and new local businesses producing marijuana drinks and edibles. The CNMI can find a great deal of prosperity with the full legalization of marijuana and I'm asking you senators to at least give the people a chance to experiment with full legalization.

the government's approva

Here's to hoping that once the regulations are drafted, the Commonwealth Casino Commission would open them for public comments and carefully consider public input before finalizing them. The public comment period alone normally eats up 30 days.

But this early, some lawmakers and community members want clarification whether Best Sunshine's "temporary" casino at T Galleria would need regulating at all, considering that it's a "training facility."

Slush fund?

Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), along with four other lawmakers, introduced a bill to appropriate \$4.2 million in lapsed funds from "Business Unit No. 3490" to help the beleaguered Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. pay its utility bills.

"Business Unit No. 3490," according to Yumul over the weekend, refers to the Commonwealth Alien Deportation Fund that was created under Public Law 10-1. That alien deportation fund law was meant to assist in the investigation, apprehension, detention, and deportation of illegal aliens. Then governor Froilan C. Tenorio signed it into law on Feb. 28, 1996.

The alien deportation fund was established by taking \$25 from every initial application fee and from every renewal fee for nonresident worker permits. It is a dedicated fund in the CNMI Treasury.

It has become a "slush fund" for different administrations for many years, Yumul said, adding that the alien deportation fund has not been subject to legislative appropriations since 1996.

The federal government has also taken control of CNMI immigration.

Kudos to Yumul and co-authors of House Bill 19-36 for identifying fund sources to help CHCC pay \$4.2 million of its nearly \$15 million debt to cash-strapped CUC, representing unpaid utility service and late fees.

Just last week, Superior Court Judge David A. Wiseman cited CHCC for civil contempt for failing to comply with the court's two outstanding orders to pay CUC and remain current on its

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio is a veteran journalist in the CNMI.



utility payments.

The Inos administration or the Department of Finance, however, might still disagree on the existence of such \$4.2 million in lapsed funds from the alien deportation fund. So there is still no guarantee at this time that the bill will pass and become law.

Same level

Gov. Eloy S. Inos told lawmakers that his proposed fiscal year 2016 operational budget would be the same level as the 2015 budget, which is \$134 million. Some lawmakers who came out of that meeting with the governor had to ask "why?"

No expected increase in government revenue from taxes and fees from the current year, even after the administration itself has been touting improved tourism activities, new investors and the multiplier effects of casino investor Best Sunshine's supposed economic contributions in 2016 alone, including the soon-to-open temporary casino at T Galleria?

The retirement settlement agreement payment that the government is required to pay in fiscal year 2016 is \$30 million, which is \$3 million more than the \$27 million in fiscal 2015. Some law-makers believe there's got to be more than \$3 million increase in revenue available for government operations once Best Sunshine's temporary casino opens its doors in 2016, for example.

But maybe, just maybe, the governor would have higher figures when he submits his actual proposed 2016 budget to the Legislature on or before April Fool's Day.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Return to an equitable way of doing business in NMI

Editor's Note: The following is the written testimony the author submitted to the Commonwealth Development Authority regarding the Qualifying Certificate application of Ocean Vista.

Joeten Enterprises, Inc. adamantly opposes Ocean Vista's bid to secure 25 years of unfettered tax relief while the CNMI people, government, and business community continue to struggle. Just this week, developers from China presented that they would be applying for 25 years of tax abatement from the developer infrastructure tax, business gross revenue tax, alcohol and beverage tax, excise tax, and income tax. They claim that without the tax abatement their company would stand to lose \$711,000 over the same period. They claim that the current supply of hotel rooms cannot meet the demand, but if that were the case, why would they anticipate a loss over a 25-year period? If these claims are true, then it is our belief that they have an extraordinarily poor business model.

We have itemized a list of our objections for the consideration of the committee. Our objections:

- 1. The Qualifying Certificate creates a competitive disadvantage to companies already doing business in the CNMI. In the case of the Ocean Vista, its restaurants and hotel will enjoy the luxury and benefit of not having to pay taxes while we see companies struggle to pay their share of taxes, where the only recourse is to either pay in installments or file for bankruptcy.
- 2. If Ocean Vista is allowed to operate in the CNMI tax-free, the tax burden in turn weighs heavily on the backs of our hardworking people. It is the rest of us, taxpaying individuals and businesses, who end up paying for public safety, public health, public infrastructure, etc. Over the past decade, the trend for government revenue has been a declining budget due to rapidly declining revenues. The QC program makes further cuts to several sources of *direct* revenue for up to 25 years, while government agencies scramble to increase the rate of current business fees and permits.
- 3. The QC program exempts companies from future tax hikes while every other company must continue to follow the law. At a time when government revenues remain unsteady and uncertain,

lawmakers should consider their options to create or raise revenue. We believe that all companies operating legally in the CNMI should be treated equitably.

- 4. Their boasting of job creation does not consider our current labor supply issues. Currently, there is legitimate concern about how the CNMI will be able to fill positions for all planned development. This begs the question, "Who benefits from job creation?"
- 5. Ocean Vista has proposed to lease public land, which, in itself should be an incentive. It is common knowledge that the price per square meter leased in public lands is far below market value. It should be imperative to disclose the price being offered to Ocean Vista.
- 6. The continuity of the QC program continues to set a bad example for future investors. We understand that the intention of the QC program is to lure investors into the CNMI; however, we believe the program actually becomes a financial crutch for future investors in order to be competitive with companies already receiving QC tax relief. This scenario creates the potential for developing a separate business community that operates independently of CNMI tax laws.

Joeten is not anti-development. However, the people of the CNMI deserve fair and responsible development by quality investors. Ocean Vista says they will hire 148 people but are 148 jobs more important than the hundreds of thousands of dollars, perhaps millions, that would contribute to the government services that we all need and use? We believe that 25 years of operating tax-free in the name of job creation is far too excessive and grossly irresponsible. If Saipan is truly where Ocean Vista wants to invest its money, especially when they tout the other benefits Guam offers, then Ocean Vista would build their hotel on Saipan, with or without the QC. Let us return to a fair and equitable way to conduct business in the CNMI. Therefore, we urge this board to reject the Ocean Vista's bid into the QC program.

Bo Palacios

Business Development Manager JC Tenorio Enterprises **12** MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.

▲ 86° ▼73°



slight chance of showers Fast winds 10 to 20 mph **▲ 88° ▼75°**



East winds 10 to 20 mph **▲ 88° ▼75°**



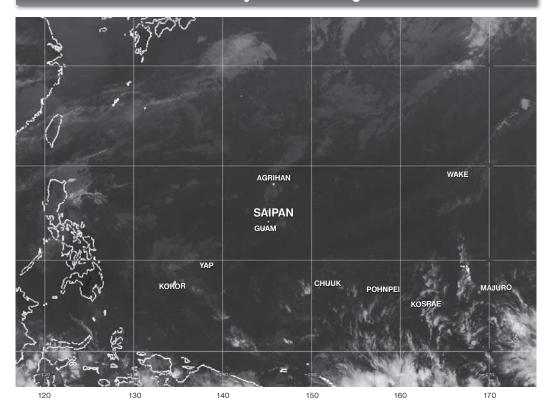
▲ 86°

▼74°

Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers

▲ 86° **▼74°**

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from 25N135E to beyond 23N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 200 miles northwest of the front. A surface trough extends southwestward from 25N155E to the Northern Mariana Islands near 18N145E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are within 100 miles of the trough. Another surface trough runs between Yap and Koror. Scattered showers are between 12N and 8N from 132E to 138E and within 50 miles of a line from 8N136E to EQ143E. A weak circulation is just south of Chuuk near 6N152E with a surface trough southeastward to a tropical disturbance centered just east of Tarawa near 2N176E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from southeast of Majuro to Kiribati are south of 4N from 171E to 180.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

	Micronesia						
Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85	▼77				
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87	▼ 76				
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 77				
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 78				
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	≜ 88	▼ 77				
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	₩80				
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	₩80				
Around the Globe							

Kosrae	srae Thunderstorms		₩80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼80
Ar	ound the Glob	е	
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73	▼ 62
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 64	₹35
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72	₩64
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	≜ 83	₹70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 53	₹ 41
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 74	₹56
Manila	Showers	4 90	▼73
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 62	₩ 47
Miami	Partly Cloudy	≜ 88	▼ 70
New York	Sunny	▲ 43	₹27
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	4 9	₹38
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 58	₩40
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 54	▼37
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 63	▼ 51
Salem	Rain	▲ 55	₩45
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64	₹52
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 55	₹30
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 56	₩40
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 49	▼35



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

■ *11 on any IT&E cellular phone ■ Log on to the internet at

www.nmicrimestoppers.com

	Ti	ides	
Saipan Harbo	or		
4:46 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4Feet
10:27 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
5:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet
11:29 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

	Sunrise/Sunset	
Today	6:20 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:19 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:19 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:19 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:19 AM	6:29 PM

IV	loonrise/Moonse	et
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Tuesday	9:19 AM	10:20 PM
Wednesday	10:11 AM	11:16 PM
Thursday	11:03 AM	
Fridav	11:55 AM	12:10 AM

OZ604/749

3:20pm

10:30pm

Daily via ICN

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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RY 5, 2015

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4 via GUM-Rota

3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

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1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

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	LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)
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		Thu, Fri, Sat	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily			Thu, Fri, Sat		
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed,		
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12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed,		
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily			Thu, Fri, Sat		
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily	4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed,		
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily			Thu, Fri, Sat		
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily					
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily								
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily								

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015 **13** SAIPAN TRIBUNE



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-15-005, Rev.1

W-4, W-5 AND W-6 SEWER LIFT STATION ELIMINATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of W-4, W-5 and W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project is composed of a Base Bid Items and 3 Additive Bid Items. The base bid consists of construction of a new lift station to replace the existing W-5 lift station; installation of new gravity mains from existing W-4 lift station to the new W-5 lift station, installation of force main from the new W-5 lift station to the nearby gravity of new gravity mains from existing w4-fift station to the new w-3 intribution of force main from the new w-3 lift stations; in the step eliminating existing sewer lift stations; installation of Owner-Furnished Contractor-Installed (OFCI) products; construction of a new generator building and appurtenances; demolition of the W-4 generator building and appurtenances; demolition and restoration existing minor structures and restoration of existing asphalt concrete road. Additive Bid No. 1 consists of archaeological and unexploded ordnance standby and monitoring services. Additive Bid No. 2 consists of a bar screen and appurtenances for the new W-5 lift station. Additive Bid Item No. 3 consists of the installation of new gravity sewer main and manholes from existing W-6 lift station to W-5 such that W-6 can be eliminated; demolition of the W-6 electrical building, new laterals, and the restoration of existing asphalt concrete road. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 350 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 for one IFB package set.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on March 27, 2015 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-005, Rev.1, W-4, W-5 and W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on April 21, 2015, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of *fifteen percent* (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of *one hundred percent* (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of *one hundred percent* (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on April 2, 2015 to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Chief Engineer via email at john.riegel@cucgov.org and Nicolette Villagomez, Junior Engineer, Water & Wastewater via email

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER

MANNY B. SABLAN



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS **OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

INVITATION FOR BIDS IFB15-GOV-053

Security Services for Water Task Force Warehouse

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after March 9, 2015.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this contract is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from OIA. The Contractor is required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. local time, March 20, 2015, at the CNMI Water Task Force Conference Room, 1316 Anatahan Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

All questions regarding this IFB must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, March 19, 2015, to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Bids must be sealed and marked "IFB15-GOV-053". For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, April 8, 2015. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bid by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, April 8, 2015, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 8, 2015, and must be received no later than April 22, 2015. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, April 23. 2015. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on April 8, 2015.

The bid procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any imperfections in any bid if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS Governor

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN Director of Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021 Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Incoming Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The LIHTC is available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP and is available at NMHC's office. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate LIHTCs. NMHC may allocate \$3,563,034.00 in LIHTCs for the 2015 program year.

Application for LIHTCs

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the LIHTCs should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or through our website at www.nmhc.gov.mp.

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application along with the \$1,000.00 Application Fee in NMHC's Office by the Application Deadline of 4:30 pm, July 31, 2015. NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or August 17, 2015. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by 4:30 pm August 31, 2015. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its Septem**ber 2015** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving LIHTCs thirty (30) days following the September 2015 Board of Directors meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS

Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Ms. Jocelyn Seman at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/7689/9447.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS **OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**



INVITATION FOR BIDS WATER TASK FORCE **IFB15-GOV-040**

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, through the CNMI Water Task Force, is soliciting sealed bids for the Lower Base Water Distribution System Improvement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

s project is funded in part by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), US Department of Commerce and CIP-CDA (PL 17-90). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from EDA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Construction of approximately 2,290 LF of 12-inch PVC, 9,560 LF of 8-inch PVC, and 2,540 LF of 6" PVC waterlines, fire
- hydrants, air relief valves, flush hydrants, blow-off valves, fittings and appurtenances. · Install new service laterals and connect to existing water meter locations
- · Install gate valves, fittings, and connections to existing water mains at various locations
- Abandon in-place of old PVC pipe.
- Restore disturbed asphalt paving and concrete pavements.
 Pressure testing and chlorination of new waterlines.
- · Removal of temporary facilities and controls.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of \$500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after February 23, 2015 at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. 2015, at the WTF Confere be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on March 5, 2015.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3-301. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project

Sealed bids must be marked "IFB15-GOV-040". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 pm local time March 25, 2015. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 2:00 pm local time March 25, 2015, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 25, 2015, and must be received no later than April 6, 2015. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, April 7, 2015. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Herman S. Sablan, Director of Procurement & Supply

14 MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

29th Annual Red Cross Walkathon

PHOTOS BY JAYSON CAMACHO



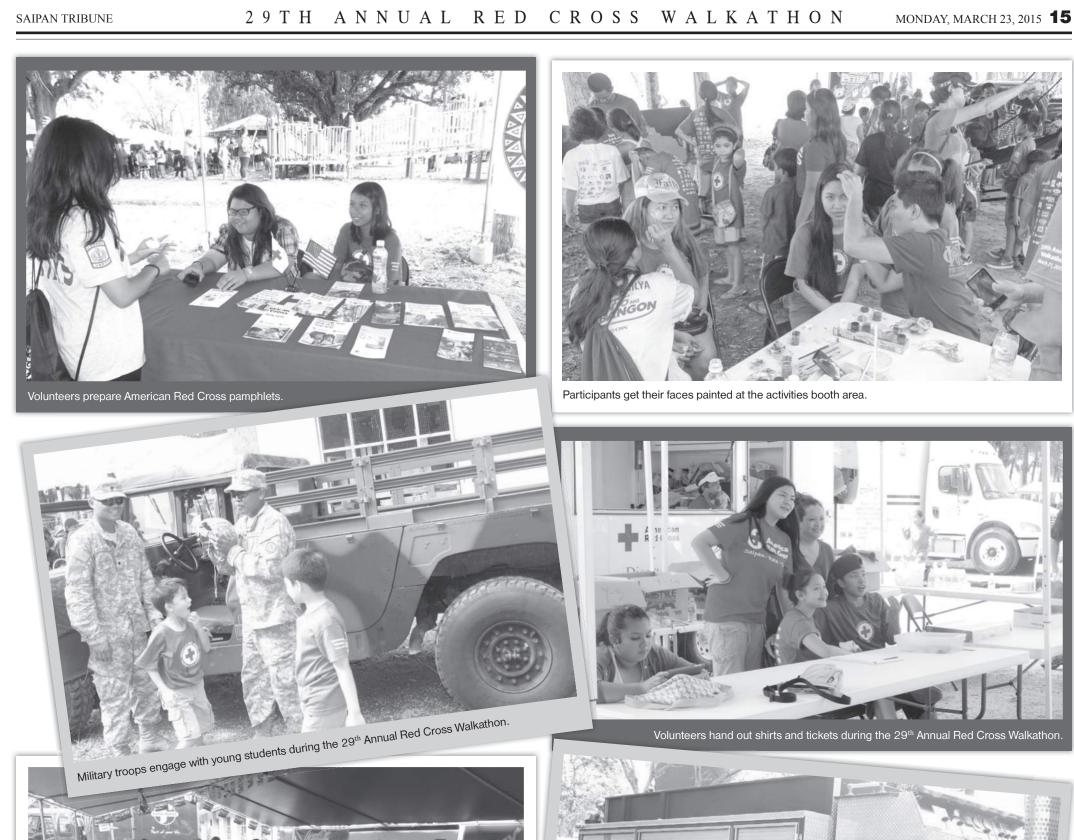








Marianas Health representatives smile at their booth during the 29th Annual Red Cross Walkathon.

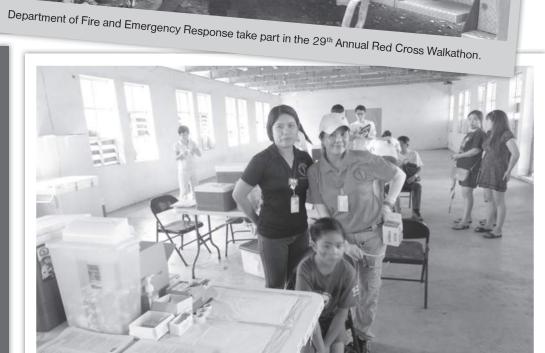




Coca Cola, Foremost, and Subway provide refreshments to participants.



Volunteers during the health screening smile for Saipan Tribune.



NMC CHARTER DAY CELEBRATION

Ayuyu tops Idol contest; Out of the Ordinary wins battle

By JAYSON CAMACHO

Nikkie Ayuyu defeated several contestants to become the winner of the 2015 Marianas Idol at the Northern Marianas College Charter Day, while a band called Out of the Ordinary made a name for itself by dominating the Battle of the Bands.

Ayuyu, who sang Sam Smith's I'm Not the Only One and accompanied himself on a guitar, won the votes of the judges with his acoustic rendition of the hit song.

Out of the Ordinary's harmonization of different songs won them the 2015 Battle of the Bands plum, while their stage presence and presentation of roses to those in the crowd won the hearts of the audiences. Judges also commended them on their energy.



Nikkie Ayuyu, who topped the 2015 Marianas Idol, performs.



One of the young contestants for the 2015 Marianas Idol



The man'amko band from the Office on Aging performs during NMC's Charter Day.



A young contestant with a powerful voice performs at the 2015 Marianas Idol.

Out of the Ordinary's music director John Jimeno said it took them about two weeks to practice for the competition.

"They actually have been performing about a year now and they put in the time and the hard work and it paid off tonight," Jimeno said.

Several band members said they wouldn't have been able to give the performances they did that night without the support of their mentors and the friendships within the band.

NMC Charter Day this year was a lot livelier compared to last year. People got to see live entertainment, food, and drinks.

Queanna Sablan, NMC Charter Day person-in-charge and program manager of the Office of Student Activities and Leadership, said the staff worked really hard to get Charter Day going and, despite the schedule being behind for the performances, it all turned out great.

This year's Charter Day celebration marked NMC's 34 years of enriching lives through higher education. It started at 4pm and ended close to 11pm.



A group of students line up for ice cream.

JAYSON CAMACHO



NMC nursing students do health screenings during NMC Charter Day.



NMC Nursing students mug for the Saipan Tribune.





Community members enjoy the performances during NMC Charter



The Pentecostal Church booth sells products during NMC's Char-



Out of the Ordinary band dance off-stage during their band's JAYSON CAMACHO performances.





Early crowd partake of vendors' food offerings before the staged entertainment.

JAIME R. VERGARA

Members of Saipan Music and Dance Studio of Marianas High School perform a music and dance number. Jaime R. Vergara

Senate mulls referendum for marijuana bill

By JOEL D. PINAROC joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com REPORTER

A referendum to allow the legalization of marijuana for medicinal purposes is one of the recommendations that the Senate will look into.

hearing on the issue on Rota.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

hearing at the Mayor's Office on Rota drew both "positive and negative" reactions from several community members.

"There were no questions [from the public] but there were several testimonies,"

Santos, said the well-attended handles concerns regarding Senate Bill 19-06.

> Introduced by Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), S.B 19-06 seeks to legalize the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes.

> During the two-day hearing, Santos said "several people came forward" to

The lawmaker said some of

tentions to provide written testimonies that will be sent to the Senate on Monday.

"Once we receive these testimonies, we will have a clearer picture of what the community members feel about the use of marijuana for medical purposes," Santos said.

Prior to the Rota hearings, Igisomar said he expects residents to ask questions regarding the regulation, cultivation, use of marijuana from residents and retail consumption of qualified patients.

Igisomar said he also prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the hearing.

The lawmaker said he has been receiving "a lot of positive feedback" on the medicinal expensive as chemotherapy.

seeking an alternative approach to costly medical treatments, particularly patients suffering from debilitating diseases.

He said cancer patients often ask for the availability of alternative treatments that are not as

Manglona didn't find

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona did not find lawyer Stephen C. Woodruff in civil contempt after hearing his arguments in connection with a third order to show cause issued

Manglona, however, told Woodruff that he should know how to request for an enlargement of time to extend the deadlines for his reporting requirements and that he should recognize that he

The judge also advised Woodruff to take action on the

amend a reporting requirement.

In his motion, the lawyer

Rather than furthering the administration of justice, he said the reporting requirements simply create the opportunity for, and even invites, overly strict and

At the hearing, Manglona

stated that this was the third order to show cause issued against Woodruff.

Manglona gave Woodruff clear notice that compliance would not necessitate any further hearings and on prior occasions the failure to comply lasted for months and the court was giving notice that it is not going to allow such continued disregard.

Woodruff stated that he was tied up with other matters. He said he has been and continues to be involved in several highly demanding, time-critical, urgent, and complex matters.

In the third order to show cause issued early this month, Manglona ordered Woodruff to appear and explain why he should not be held in contempt for failure to comply with the August 2013 order and sanctioned accordingly.

The judge said Woodruff was required to submit a report on or before March 1, 2015, but no report has been submitted.

On Aug. 8, 2013, based on Woodruff's disbarment in the CNMI courts and serious allegations of attorney misconduct, Manglona ordered him to "notify the court, in writing, of the progress of his disciplinary matter in the Commonwealth courts" within the last five business days of each month.

Manglona also cautioned Woodruff that he was required there has been no activity in

Woodruff in contempt

against him.

has a deadline to file the report.

pending motion he had filed.

The motion referred to was Woodruff's motion to vacate or

In that motion, Woodruff asked the court to vacate the finding of contempt it entered against him on Nov. 12, 2014. He also requested for a refund of the \$500 fine he paid the court.

said the reporting requirements imposed are unsupported by rule or case law, unnecessary to achieve any legitimate need of the court, and unduly burdensome upon him.

onerous application against him.

to file a written report with the court each month "even if

the case whatsoever."

proved the appointment of Albert A. Taitano to the board of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

no's appointment after hearing supporting testimonies at a session on Rota.

Taitano on March 2 to serve on the CUC board representing Saipan.

quires the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Representatives. If confirmed, Taitano will serve a four year-term.

Inos also named appointees for the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Civil Service Commission, Medical Profession Licensing Board, and Historic

Jose R. Lifoifoi was appointed as a member of the CPA board. He will be required to file a statement of financial interest and other requirements.

The governor also appointed Dr. Warren Creed to serve as a member of the Medical Profession Licensing Board, which will require the advice and consent of the Senate.

Felicitas P. Abraham was reappointed to serve as a member of the CSC. She will also be asked to disclose a financial statement to the Public Auditor.

The governor also appointed Barry Wonenberg and Dr. Elizabeth D. Rechebei to serve on the Historic Preservation Review Board. The advice and consent of the Senate is not required and the appointees will serve a fouryear term (Joel D. Pinaroc)

According to Sen. Teresita A. Santos said. The lawmaker chairs the Santos (R-Rota), this possibility give testimonies. was discussed during a two-day Senate Committee on Health

and Welfare, which directly

the residents also expressed in-

'Giving Fund \$15M more each year for 10 years will make it self-sustaining'

If the CNMI government will infuse the Settlement Fund with \$15 million more each year for at least 10 years, the government's contribution can be reduced significantly starting in fiscal year 2026, and the Fund can be self-sustaining instead of being depleted by 2019, according to Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang.

The major predicament is the Settlement Fund will become pay-as-you-go by 2019, but if there is that \$15 million additional funding each year, the Settlement Fund's assets will reach \$215 million by 2026, said Tang in her report to the court on Friday.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, who presided over the hearing, said the anticipated depletion of Fund assets by 2019 is "scary for the retirees.'

She underscored the need to infuse more money into the Settlement Fund so its investment horizon would be lengthened.

The judge, however, expressed appreciation to Gov. Eloy S. Inos for working diligently with the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Finance in making sure that retirees get paid.

Tang disclosed that for fiscal year 2014 and as of the present, 100 percent of retirees got their payments.

Tang believes the \$15 million annual Saipan casino licensing fee from Best Sunshine International, Ltd. should be used for either payment of the 75 percent payments and/or given to the Fund to be invested so that the investment horizon can be extended

The casino gaming law, Public Law 18-56, requires Best Sunshine to pay a \$15 million fee for the first five years. Currently, \$10 million of the amount is allocated to pay the 25 percent reduction in pension.

House Bill 19-21 seeks to amend the casino gaming law to dedicate the entire license fee to cover the 25 percent of the pension payments that were reduced under the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action.

In an interview after the hearing, Tang said they believe the \$15 million is a viable investment plan, but it is a decision



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang and her counsel Dean Manglona emerge from the U.S. District Court from the NMI on Friday after a hearing on Friday. Tang made a presentation on her report about the Fund's fourth quarter fiscal year 2014 and first quarter fiscal year 2015.

that will involve everyone in the government and the retirees.

"This plan needs to be further reviewed, investigated, studied, and discussed before I think we can to really take this plan to the next step," she said.

Tang said the government would continue making the payments under the settlement agreement in Betty Johnson's class action and then the \$15 million from the casino license fee would go to the Settlement Fund and be invested.

"It's up to the government whether they would like to continue making the 25 percent payments," she said.

Margery Bronster, counsel for Johnson, said in an interview that since the \$15 million is currently being used to make up the 25 percent cut in retirees' pensions, "there is obviously a balance there and that is something that is going to be a difficult situation to try and decide which is best.

Bronster said they are, however, pleased that the Fund is working, that retirees are getting paid, and that the government has chosen to put additional funds toward the beneficiaries.

"What's going to happen is if we go along with the plan, then comes 2019 the government is going to have to pay 100 percent of the benefit on an annual basis," Bronster said.

She said a suggestion made by Settlement Fund investment consultant Wilshire Consulting was that if the government sets aside a little bit more money now toward the Fund, it would diminish the amount they would have to pay later.

She said Wilshire believes it wouldn't make the depletion so immediate because in 2019 the government is going to have pay every single dollar.

"The idea was hopefully to have more investments so that the government would not have to come up with all the money for the retirees," Bronster said.

In her presentation, Tang said assuming that the government is contributing \$15 million more each year for the first 10 years, the Fund can invest more aggressively and achieve investment return of at least 5 percent

Tang said government contribution to the Fund can be reduced to \$10 million a year starting fiscal 2026, and the Fund can be self-sustaining.

She said the total contribution savings to the government are estimated to be over \$100 million in the next 30 years.

Tang disclosed that the beginning value of the Fund's investments on Oct. 1, 2014, was \$95.3 million, while its ending value on Dec. 31, 2014, was \$86.8 million.

Maggie Ralbolvsky, principal of the Fund's investment consultant Wilshire, also made a presentation telephonically about the Fund's investment strategy and update.

Ralbolvsky said the Fund will have no assets by 2019 without additional investments.

Assuming that the government will put in an additional \$15 million yearly for 10 years, they

could arrange a more aggressive investment portfolio that could earn an average return of at least 5 percent per year. Bronster pointed out that in

the settlement agreement, there

is a provision that encourages the government to put more money into the Fund to make its investment glidepath longer. Bronster said the Judiciary

Building's \$5 million loan balance would also help extend the Fund's glidepath.

Tydingco-Gatewood noted that the only current source of additional investment is the \$15 million from Best Sunshine. She urged Tang to pursue the casino license money diligently so retirees and government officials should know about the Fund's need for more funding to avoid depletion by 2019.

"Time is of the essence," Tydingco-Gatewood pointed out, telling Tang to focus on extending the Fund's investment horizon.

Tang said the \$15 million issue requires a lot of work because it's a government's policy decision. She said they have not discussed that with Inos yet but they intend to do that after Friday's hearing.

Tang said as the Fund's investments are being liquidated to pay pension payments, the amount available for investment decreases and the investment horizon is shortened.

Because of the Fund's inability to take high levels of capital market risk, a more conservative investment capital policy is required, she said.

Taitano appointment to CUC board OK'd The Senate on Friday ap-

Senators approved Taita-Gov. Eloy S. Inos appointed

Taitano's appointment re-

Preservation Review Board.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015 **19**

Health & Fitness

FDA approves genetically engineered potatoes, apples as safe

BOISE, **Idaho** (AP)—Potatoes that won't bruise and apples that won't brown are a step closer to grocery store aisles, but some food suppliers say they don't want any part of it and others are staying silent.

The Food and Drug Administration on Friday approved the genetically engineered foods, saying they are "as safe and nutritious as their conventional counterparts."

The approval covers six varieties of potatoes by Boise, Idaho-based J. R. Simplot Co. and two varieties of apples from the Canadian company Okanagan Specialty Fruits Inc.

Genetically modified organisms, or GMOs, refers to food grown from seeds that are genetically engineered in a lab. Aware of potential resistance from consumers, Simplot officials say Innate potato traits come exclusively from genes from domestic potato varieties.

However, one of the company's oldest business partners— McDonald's—said it won't use the potatoes.

"McDonald's USA does not source GMO potatoes nor do we have current plans to change our sourcing practice," the com-



This undated handout photo provided by Okanagan Specialty Fruits shows an Arctic® Granny, left, Arctic® Golden, right, and Arctic® Granny slices

pany said in a statement Friday. Burger King and Wendy's declined to comment.

Okanagan, based in British Columbia, wants to make apples a more convenient snack with its non-browning version. The company says bagged apples wouldn't have to be washed in antioxidants like they are now, a process that can affect taste. Company founder Neal Carter said Okanagan wants to see bagged apples become as prolific as bagged baby carrots.

"We know that in a convenience-driven world, a whole apple is too big of a commitment," Carter said.

The apples are dubbed Arctic Apples, and Carter said he wants them to be labeled as such. The first two varieties will be Granny Smith and Golden won't be significant plantings until 2017.

Simplot calls its potatoes Innate and the varieties selected include Ranger Russet, Russet Burbank and Atlantic.

"We're trying to improve potatoes so everyone gets a better experience, just like it's right out vice president of plant sciences for Simplot.

But it could be years before the average customer is able to buy one. The company has about 400 acres of Innate potatoes in storage from the 2014 harvest that it plans to deliver to growers, packers and shippers

Delicious. Carter said there of the field," said Haven Baker, to be sent to a tightly-controlled network for use in small-scale test markets.

> The company said those markets haven't been determined, and it's not clear how the potatoes will be labeled. The company said it's not selling Innate seed potatoes on the open market.

Will aspirin reduce your cancer risk? Depends on your DNA, study says

By KAREN KAPLAN

LOS ANGELES TIMES

For most people, a regular dose of aspirin, Advil, Aleve or certain other over-the-counter painkillers can reduce the risk of colorectal cancer by about one-third. But for some people, these same pills make colorectal cancer more likely.

Now researchers have figured out a way to tell these two groups apart by looking at three specific spots in the vast human genome.

After combing through the DNA of more than 17,000 people in four countries, the researchers identified a few genetic variants that appear to influence whether drugs like aspirin increase or decrease one's risk of colorectal cancer. Theirfindings were published Tuesday by the Journal of the American Medical Association

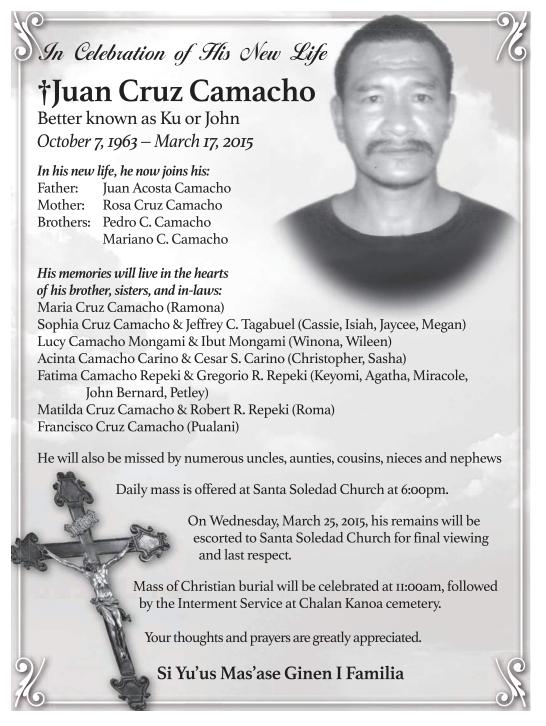
The study is an example of how "big science" can untangle the influence of genetics and the environment and show how the two interact to cause—or prevent-diseases, according to Dr. Richard C. Wender, the chief cancer control officer for the American Cancer Society in Atlanta.

"The ability to translate genetic profiling into tailored preventive care plans for individuals is still years away," Wender wrote in aneditorial that accompanies the JAMA report. But the analysis gives scientists a clearer picture of how to get there from here, he added.

Lots of research had already linked nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs—the painkillers better known as NSAIDs_ with a reduced risk of the colorectal growths that can lead to cancer. But doctors aren't sure why this is, and they've been reluctant to use NSAIDs for cancer prevention without a better understanding of why the drugs seem to work.

So an international group of researchers mined data from 10 long-term studies that tracked people who were diagnosed with colorectal cancer, along with healthy volunteers who were matched according to age, gender and other demographic factors. All of the volunteers answered questions about their use of NSAIDs (including aspirin, ibuprofen and naproxen) and DNA samples to researchers.





20 MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Life & Style

The song is over, as 'Glee' ends its tuneful 6-season run

NEW YORK (AP)—The "Glee" series finale delivered glorious news that William McKinley High School is being turned into an arts school and that Will Schuester, who started its glee club way back in 2009, will become its principal.

Oh, and that wondrous show choir, New Directions, won the national championship.

But "Glee" always had the underlying message: With a song in your heart, dreams do come true.

Another dream fulfilled: Mercedes (Amber Riley) told the gang she'll be the opening act on Beyonce's upcoming world tour.

Cue the songs: "Teach Your Children" ... "Someday We'll Be Together" ... "The Winner Takes It All" ... "Daydream Believer."

That's how it went—happily ever after—as the Fox songand-dance show concluded its six-season run Friday night.

Oh, sure, there were some unexpected nightmares, too. Looking ahead five years, faculty mean girl Sue Sylvester was seen winning a second term as vice president of the United States (in the Jeb Bush administration). She announced to Ger-

In this Jan. 23, 2010 file photo, Jane Lynch, center, and the cast of "Glee" accept the award for at the 16th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles.

aldo Rivera that she planned to seek the presidency in 2024.

On a brighter note, five years from now Rachel will be a surrogate mom for gay couple Kurt and Blaine. She'll also be a Tony winner: "Being a part of something special does not make you special," she said on accepting her award. "Something is special because you are a part of it."

The show finished with a rousing rendition of "I Lived."

"Glee" leaves behind a remarkable legacy.

First of all, it dared to try something that had seldom if ever succeeded in television history, blending episodic narrative with musical production numbers. It set those performances in the context of New Directions at fictitious McKinley High, a setting replete with stories about growing up, self-acceptance, perseverance and dreams.



few would have thought possible: It helped make glee clubs cool while it promoted arts programs in schools.

And it served as a platform for new talent, launching such "Glee" did something else stars as Lea Michele (Rachel)

while giving wide exposure to veterans like Matthew Morrison (Will) and Jane Lynch (Sue), with guest appearances by a broad range of celebrities that included Helen Mirren, Lindsey Lohan and Ricky Martin.

Pop music—both new and well-established—reached new audiences, both on the show and through sales of more than 50 million songs and 13 million albums under the "Glee" signature.

While it was demonstrating a viewer appetite for musical theater among its audience, accomplished one more thing: It highlighted, and even helped normalize, young people traditionally deemed marginal both in real life and on TV. Among the characters included in the "Glee" big tent was transgender girl Wade "Unique" Adams. Tolerance, or at least reaching for it, was a "Glee" hallmark.

On "Glee," glee club was the default matter-of-life-anddeath. But story lines frequently reminded its membership, along with the viewers, that plenty of other things were equally important—or even more so.

During its mostly joyous run, "Glee" weathered loads of onscreen drama. But there was bitter, real-life drama, too-notably the death of Cory Monteith. A breakout star who played singer-quarterback Finn Hudson, he had struggled off-camera with substance abuse. Then, in July 2013, he died at 31 of an accidental alcohol and drug overdose.

That October, "Glee" said goodbye to Finn (whose death, never described, was written into the series) while paying tribute to Monteith in an emotional farewell episode where reality intruded all too vividly on the show's makebelieve tale.

In the finale, the fabled high school auditorium five years from now will be renamed for Finn Hudson.

Meanwhile, reality intruded once again: For the characters at McKinley High, as well as the audience that has followed them with every note, graduation day has come.

Q&A: John Legend on race, Common, Sam Smith, 'Blurred Lines'

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—John Legend says he's concerned that the "Blurred Lines" verdict could set a scary precedent for artists creating music inspired by others.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press, the Grammy winner said understands why people say 2013's biggest hit song by Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke sounds like "Got to Give It Up," Marvin Gaye's 1977 hit, adding: "I said that when I first heard it, too."

But he said he doesn't agree with the jury that determined the performers copied elements of Gaye's work.

"You have to be careful when it comes to convrights whether just sounding like or feeling like something is enough to say you violated their copyrights," the singer-songwriter told The Associated Press on Saturday before performing at the South by Southwest music festival. "Because there's a lot of music out there, and there's a lot of things that feel like other things that are influenced by other things. And you don't want to get into that thing where all of us are suing each other all the time because this and that song feels like another song."

Williams, with whom Legend has worked in the past, and Thicke also were ordered to pay nearly \$7.4 million to three of Gaye's children.

"I think we have to be careful about that, and I'm a little concerned that this verdict might be a slippery slope," Legend said.

Legend also spoke about collaborating with Sam Smith, whose debut album earned him Grammys for song and record of the year last month; his collaborator Common's recent comments about racism that sparked some backlash; and mentoring budding artists with for the AXE White Label

Here are some highlights from the interview:

AP: Are you working on a new album?

Legend: A week from Monday I'll start. I'm going on vacation next week because I need it (laughs) and then I'll really jump in the studio to start writing again.

AP: "All of Me" was such a huge hit. Is there any pressure as you head into the next album?

Legend: The pressure I put on myself isn't, 'I have to make another 'All of Me." It's just I have to write great songs. I want to make a better record than I made the last time. I want to grow. I want to discover new things about myself creatively.

AP: You and Common won

an Oscar for "Glory" from (the movie) "Selma." Where did you put it?

Legend: It's sitting on my piano in New York at our apartment there.

AP: Common received some backlash for his comments about ending racism on "The Daily Show" last week. What are your thoughts?

Legend: Oh yeah, I heard a little bit about it and I understand what he's saying because I do believe that part of us ending racism is us seeing each other's humanity and learning to love each other, even if we look different or worship differently or live differently. But I think it's not enough for us to extend the hand of love. I think it's important that that goes both ways. It's important also that we look at policies we need to change as well.

It's important for us also to fight for certain changes that need to happen. And one of those issues that I really care about is education. But also another one is incarceration, which is what I talked about at the Oscars. And mass incarceration is a policy that's kind of built up over the last four decades and it's destroyed families and communities, and something we need to change. And it's fallen disproportionally on black and brown communities, especially black communities, and it's kind of a manifestation of structural racism. So when you think about that kind of thing, it's not enough to say we need to love each other, you have to go behind that and say we need to change these policies, we need to fight, we need to protest, we need to agitate for change.

AP: What was it like working with Sam Smith on the charity single "Lay Me Down"?

Legend: It was great. I love Sam. I think he's one of the most talented new artists out right now, and our voices work really well together. And we both love soul music and wanted to make a really powerful song together, and we were able to do that—and do it for a great cause. And I'm excited for all the traction the song has gotten; it hit No. 1, my first No. 1 in the U.K.

AP: Have you been to SXSW before?

Legend: I've performed here many times, just different types of events. There's always something going on. The first time I played here was actually for Starbucks, outside of Starbucks in 2005 for my first album. I've come back for different purposes different years. I've done a show with Kanye here.

AP: What was it like mentoring budding musicians?

Legend: I love it. It's something I've always done anyway. A lot of it has been informal; some of it is me signing artists like Estelle or executive producing artists like Stacy Barthe. It's always been a part of what I like to do, and I benefited from it as well. Kanye signed me and has mentored me, Stevie Wonder has mentored me. All kinds of people have given me great advice over the years, so I like to pay it forward as well.



John Legend poses for a photograph during the SXSW Music Festival on Saturday, March 21, 2015 in Austin, Texas.

Judge ends Chris Brown's court saga over Rihanna attack

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Brown has finally put his 2009 attack on Rihanna behind him, at least legally.

Superior Court Judge James R. Brandlin ended Brown's felony probation on Friday, more than six years after the R&B singer brutally attacked his then-girlfriend hours before the Grammy Awards.

The attack erased Brown's squeaky clean image, which he has failed to regain in the ensuing years after incidents such as throwing a chair through a window after a contentious "Good Morning America" interview and a parking lot brawl with singer Frank Ocean. Brown's career has partially rebounded, with the singer performing at the 2012 Grammy Awards and winning a trophy for best R&B album.

Brandlin's decision marks the first time since mid-2009 that Brown will not be under the supervision of court or probation officials. The singer initially avoided problems with the case, but since 2013 has struggled to complete his community service obligations and had his probation revoked in January after he performed a show in Northern California without permission.

Brown and his attorney Mark Geragos hugged in the courtroom and again in a courthouse elevator. After the hearing, he tweeted, "IM OFF PRO-BATION!!!!!!!! Thank the Lord!!!!!"

The case forced Brown, 25, to confront some deep personal issues: he says he witnessed domestic violence as a child and while in rehab, he was diagnosed as bipolar, a condition exacerbated by his frequent marijuana use.

The singer has alternated between appearing contrite and polite in court to defiant and angry on social media and in public appearances. Although he maintains a sizable and supportive fan base, known as team breezy, the case has stunted his



In February, Canadian immigration officials refused to allow him into the country, forcing him to cancel two shows, and British officials blocked his entry in 2010 forcing the cancellation of four performances.

The singer lost several months of his touring schedule last year dealing with repercussion from a fight in Washington, D.C., and issues he encountered in rehab

"I couldn't be more delighted," Geragos said after the

"He is in a spot right now and a place right now that I couldn't be prouder of him," Geragos said of Brown. He said Friday's hearing was "a monumental feat for him."

Problems began in 2013 after prosecutors questioned whether he had complied with the terms of his community labor sentence and Brandlin briefly revoked his probation in a hit-and-run case filed against the singer over a fender bender.

Later that year, Brown struck a man outside a Washington hotel and was charged with misdemeanor assault. Brown was ordered into rehab but was dismissed from the facility for violating its rules and spent two-and-a-half months in custody, with U.S. marshals shuttling him between Los Angeles and the nation's capital for court hearings.

In another incident while in

treatment, Brown threw a brick at his mother's car following a counseling session. The incidents occurred after Brown had Chris Brown, right, appears with his attorney Mark Geragos, at a court hearing in the R&B singer's attack on Rihanna in Los Angeles on Friday, March 20, 2015.

completed court-ordered anger management sessions.

Brown missed the January deadline to complete his community labor sentence, which required him to perform manual labor such as roadside cleanup or graffiti removal.

Brown was 19 years old when he attacked Rihanna in a rented sports car after leaving a pre-Grammy Awards party. Brown fled the scene but turned himself in to police hours later and was subsequently charged with felony assault.

Celebrity website TMZ posted a photo of Rihanna's battered Brown was required to undergo

face, showing extensive injuries that a detective described in detail in a search warrant affidavit seeking phone records from both singers. Brown repeatedly punched Rihanna, bit her ear and choked her to the point that she nearly lost consciousness, according to the affidavit.

Brown pleaded guilty to felony assault in June 2009 and was ordered to stay away from Rihanna, although the order was later lifted and the pair rekindled their romance. They've since broken up.

The singers have collaborated on at least three songs together since the 2009 altercation, including the aptly titled "Nobody's Business" from Rihanna's last album, 2012's Grammy-winning "Unapologetic."

As part of his sentence,

Former rap mogul collapses in court after bail hearing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former rap music mogul Marion "Suge" Knight collapsed in a courtroom Friday shortly after a judge ordered him held on \$25 million bail in a murder case.

Bailiffs cleared the courtroom, paramedics arrived with a stretcher a few minutes later and an ambulance was seen leaving the courthouse.

Defense attorney Matthew Fletcher said Knight was unconscious when the lawyer left the courtroom and an update on his condition was not immediately available.

Fletcher said his client, who is diabetic and has a blood clot, previously told him that he hadn't received any medication since Thursday.

Knight hit his head on a chair when he fell after the bail hearing, Fletcher said.

The 6-foot-4-inch tall Knight collapsed while deputies were bringing him back into the courtroom after Fletcher asked a judge to order that Knight be given his medication.

The attorney said Knight was

being kept in solitary confinement in jail without proper access to medication.

"He's being treated worse than Charles Manson," Fletcher said.

The collapse marked the fourth time that Knight has been taken by ambulance from a courthouse since he was charged with killing Terry Carter, 55, in early February.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Ronald S. Coen set bail on Friday at \$25 million for Knight, who is accused of running down and killing Carter with his truck.

Coen made his decision after Deputy District Attorney Cynthia Barnes noted that Knight was on bail in a robbery case when he struck Carter and another man in a parking lot in Compton.

"He escalated his behavior and committed murder," Barnes told the judge.

Fletcher argued that Knight's bail should be set at \$2 million, but Coen said the higher amount was warranted.



Los Angeles Sheriff's deputies rush to assist Marion "Suge" Knight, as he suddenly fainted during an appearance in court for a bail review hearing in his murder case in Los Angeles on Friday, March 20, 2015.

The attorney said before the hearing that his client likely could not post bail if it was set at \$25 million.

Knight, the 49-year-old cofounder of Death Row Records, has pleaded not guilty to murder, attempted murder and hitand-run charges.

Barnes filed a motion Thurs-

day accusing Knight of being part of a scheme that has extorted more than \$10 million from up-and-coming and established rappers in recent years.

Fletcher countered that should prosecutors charges involving those extortion claims if they have enough evidence.

Man stays on the sidelines when family talks sports

EAR ABBY: My family is big on sports and discusses your passions? Not everyone is the same; not everyone is interleft out of conversations because of my lack of knowledge on the current stats, etc. I have always refrained from speaking about the things I'm passionate about because of lack of interest from them.

My good friend said maybe I'm considered less of a man by my brothers and my dad because of my apathy about sports. I served eight years in the Army, with four deployments between Iraq and Afghanistan, and was wounded twice. Not a man?

This issue may seem childish, but it is something that affects me to this day. Do you have any suggestions?

SITTING ON THE SIDELINES

DEAR SITTING: Yes. Stop listening to the armchair analysis of that "friend." When sports enthusiasts spout statistics, what they really want is someone to listen and appreciate their

It's sad that you haven't been able to let your father and brothers know about the things that interest you, but has it occurred to you perhaps you should have spoken up more about

them at every gathering, big or small. I played sports ested in the same things. It doesn't mean that anyone is more growing up, but I don't care to follow them in my adult or less "manly" than someone else. You're a military vet, so life like the rest of my family does. Sometimes I'm stop measuring yourself by anyone else's yardstick because it isn't fair to you or to your family.

> **DEAR ABBY:** I just married a wonderful man. "Derrick" is loving, considerate, helpful, smart, hard-working, and he wants to spend time with me as often as possible.

> This is my second marriage. I have five kids ages 11 to 15, work full-time and try to fit in regular exercise. When my kids are with their dad, Derrick is home every minute I'm there and we do a lot together—hiking, biking, running, movies, dining or just hanging out. He leaves for work after I do and comes home before I arrive.

> My issue is, if I want any time alone, I have to leave the house. I used to have alone time before I met him, but now it's very rare. Abby, I need a little time for myself once in a while. I am very independent and don't need a companion every minute of every day. I'm becoming unhappy and depressed because I have no privacy.

> I have told Derrick what I need, but how do I realistically get him out of the house so I can have some time to myself? He has

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Ruren also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



a lot of friends, but he wants to spend his time with me. He isn't controlling or weird or jealous, but I'm feeling smothered. NEEDS SPACE IN NEVADA

DEAR NEEDS: Suggest Derrick schedule some regular dates with his male friends—a golf game, card game, some other sporting event, etc. He might enjoy that, and it will give you the breathing room you need.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

22 MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

Bv Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis















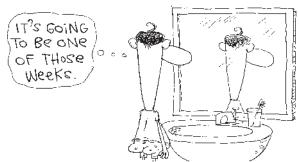
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy





CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call. 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18- only.) A King

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michelle Monaghan, 39; Keri Russell, 39; Catherine Keener, 56; Chaka Khan, 62.

Happy Birthday: Read between the lines and take action. This is the year to set goals, show some discipline and make things happen. You will learn as you go and develop the skills needed to achieve what you set out to do. Focus on your destination and don't lose sight of the results you want to see unfold. Your numbers are 8, 12, 15, 23, 30, 38, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Crank up the volume and make your move. Now is not the time to be a bystander. Jump at any opportunity to secure your position, sign a contract or improve your standard of living, remembering

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't engage in a debate that has the potential to turn into an argument. Regret is likely if you aren't willing to compromise. Overreacting and overspending will be what stands between

at all times to stay within your budget. •••

you and victory. OOO GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Plan your investment strategy before you go on a spending spree. Don't donate or give too much to someone asking for a handout. Don't believe everything you hear. Put your money into self-improvement, your career or your home. 000

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take the initiative and make a commitment to follow through with a plan. Join an organization that you can offer your time and experience to, but

don't make a cash contribution. Getting involved physically will lead to a new friendship. ••••

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take control, come up with a plan and follow through. Don't be deterred by someone using emotional blackmail. Focus on what you want to accomplish and don't look back. You've got what it takes to be successful. ��

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can have some fun and still accomplish what you set out to do. Self-improvement projects will pay off and draw attention from someone special. Gather information and use your powers of persuasion to get others to do things for you. 🛇 🗘 🔾

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't share personal financial matters. An unusual investment will grab your attention. A project you can develop and distribute from home looks promising, but will turn out best if you move forward in small and precise increments. •••

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't go overboard. Use your intuition, intelligence and creative drive to help you get where you want to go. Love is on the rise, and discussing your intentions and plans for the future will add to your intrigue and improve your personal life. OOO

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Focus on home, family and friends. Taking time to get to know someone better will enrich your life. You don't have to spend money to impress someone. Don't give in to someone offering something that is too good to be true. ••• EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't follow the crowd or make an impulsive move or decision. Make sure to take a quiet moment to mull over the past, present and future before embarking on a fast-cash scheme.

Put home and family first. ****OOOO** AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Push for progress in work-related matters. Look for job opportunities, set up meetings and send out your resume. There is plenty to gain if you stay on top of your professional situation.

Advancement is within reach. •• PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't be fooled by an offer someone makes. You won't be given the information you require to make a wise choice. Focus more on yourself and improving what you have to offer. Romance will improve your personal life. Birthday Baby: You are generous, sympathetic

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ http://bit.ly/exhoro and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

and insightful. You have vision and a good im-

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level *

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer									
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By DAVID WONDERWORD CUELLET

agination.

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, estically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters shell the Wonderword.

MOVIESDOOGYDETY UEMITEAMNUAPMAL SYTEFASIATTUOLE NUDINNERSDHKE UPEHCNULOIRPOOR MLMGUDEOCSVAIOF SANRAVDRCIRRNBR PYOEINAHDA®KTGI A G R S I F E E K L (D) S E N E RRILTDOERA(I) CRIN E O V S U G N I T G (R) H A S D NUNLAUGHTEROCLS TNEMTNIOPPAOTOY SDESUOHOURSLUOO TSAFKAERBYTRAPB

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Two-time MVP Steve Nash announces retirement



ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles Lakers guard Steve Nash announced his retirement Saturday, quietly ending a 19-year NBA career that included two

After playing in just 65 games over the past three seasons due to injuries, the 41-year-old Canadian playmaker formalized his departure with a letter on The Players' Tribune, a website where he is a senior producer.

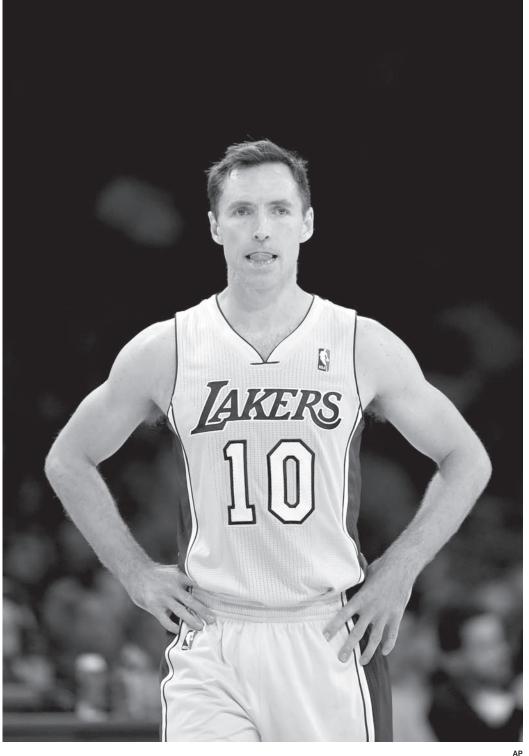
"I will likely never play basketball again," wrote Nash, who hasn't played at all this season. "It's bittersweet. I already miss the game deeply, but I'm also really excited to learn to do something else."

The eight-time All-Star is third in NBA history with 10,335 assists, trailing only John Stockton and Jason Kidd. Nash also is the best free-throw shooter in NBA history at 90.4 percent, barely edging Mark Price.

While thanking a lengthy list of former teammates and influential mentors in his letter, Nash wrote of his lifelong love for basketball and his relentless desire for improvement.

"The greatest gift has been to be completely immersed in my passion and striving for something I loved so much visualizing a ladder, climbing up to my heroes," Nash wrote. "The obsession became my best friend."

Although his career wound down awkwardly with the Lakers, Nash will be remembered for his incredible prime with the Phoenix Suns. The speedy, sharp-shooting point guard changed the professional game and won the league MVP awards in 2005 and 2006 during a dominant stretch as the catalyst for coach Mike



In this April 8, 2014, file photo, Los Angeles Lakers guard Steve Nash looks on during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Houston Rockets in Los Angeles.

D'Antoni's up-tempo offense. "It will always hurt that

the championship they deserved during our run," said Phoenix Suns fans didn't get Nash, who spent 10 seasons

in Phoenix during two tenures with the team.

"Yes, we had some bad

luck, but I always look back at it and think, 'I could've made one more shot, or not forced a turnover, or made a better pass.' But I don't regret anything. The arena was always sold out and rocking. It was the time of my life.'

Nash was born in South Africa, but grew up in British Columbia and starred in college at Santa Clara. After starting his NBA career with two quiet years in Phoenix, he rose to prominence with the Dallas Mavericks during the 2000-01 season alongside Michael Finley and Dirk Nowitzki, reaching the Western Conference finals.

After re-signing with Phoenix, Nash and D'Antoni led the Suns to the conference finals again, but repeatedly fell short of the NBA finals in painful fashion. Nash led the NBA in assists five times in seven seasons while scoring at least 14.7 points per game in each year, and he became one of just 10 players in league history to win consecutive MVP awards.

Nash's success led to a proliferation of the sport in Canada, which has produced a stream of top-level players who grew up watching his success. Anthony Bennett and Andrew Wiggins were the top picks in the last two NBA drafts.

Nash never had success with the Lakers, who mortgaged their future to sign him to a \$28 million contract in 2012, trading four draft picks to Phoenix in a bid to build a championship team around Kobe Bryant and Dwight Howard.

Nash, whose health problems began in Phoenix, agreed to the move so he could chase his first championship while still living fairly close to his three children with his ex-wife.

But Nash struggled with injuries in Los Angeles from his second game, when he broke a bone in his left leg. After managing just 15 games last season, a persistent back problem prevented Nash from suiting up at all this year, making his retirement a long-expected formality.

"When I signed with the Lakers, I had big dreams of lifting the fans up and lighting this city on fire," Nash wrote. "I turned down more lucrative offers to come to L.A. because I wanted to be in the 'fire,' and play for high risk and high reward in my last NBA chapter. In my second game here, I broke my leg and nothing was the same."

Nash remembers a standing ovation from Staples Center fans when he returned to the court last spring as "one of my best memories."

Nash has said he agreed to delay the announcement of his retirement last fall because the Lakers hoped to have a chance to trade his expiring contract for assets at the trade deadline last month. Nash is making \$9.7 million this season, and his deal counts against the struggling Lakers' salary cap.

Nash, a part-owner of MLS' Vancouver Whitecaps, hasn't decided what he'll do now that basketball isn't his primary pursuit and muse.

"Obviously, I value my kids and my family more than the game," Nash said. "But in some ways having this friend—this ever-present pursuit—has made me who I am, taught me and tested me, and given me a mission that feels irreplaceable. I am so thankful. I've learned so many invaluable lessons about myself and about life. And of course I still have so much to learn."

Green scores 23, Conley 21 as Grizzlies beat Blazers, 97-86

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Jeff Green had 23 points and Mike Conley scored 21 with nine assists to lead the Memphis Grizzlies to a 97-86 victory over the struggling Portland Trail Blazers on Saturday night.

Zach Randolph added 17 points for Memphis, which won its second straight. Marc Gasol had 13 points, and Tony Allen finished with 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Damian Lillard led the Trail Blazers with 27 points and seven assists. LaMarcus Aldridge had 16 points, but didn't play in the second half because of an injury to his left hand. C.J. McCollum finished with 13 points, and Dorell Wright scored 10.

The Trail Blazers also played the second half without starting forward Nicolas Batum, sidelined with lower back pain. The team said X-rays on Aldridge's hand were negative.

The loss was the season-

worst fourth straight for Portland, which was creeping up the Western Conference standings a week ago. The defeat dropped the Trail Blazers four games behind the Grizzlies for the second playoff seed in the West.

What started out as a good shooting night for both teams ended with both slipping near 40 percent-Memphis shooting 42 percent to 43 percent for Portland.

Memphis, however, connected on 11 of 18 from outside the arc, including Green going 5 of 7 and Conley 3 for 5. The 11 3-pointers matched Memphis' season high.

Both teams shot better than 60 percent in the first quarter.

Memphis couldn't keep the pace, missing its first 10 shots in the second and going almost six minutes without scoring. Meanwhile, the Trail Blazers crafted an 11-0 run.

Memphis reversed the trend, eventually carrying a 53-44 lead into the break behind 15 points from Conley and 10 from Allen, with the backcourt pair hitting all 10 of its shots in the half.

Memphis built the lead to double digits early in the second half, and the Grizzlies maintained the advantage through the third quarter.

Portland managed to cut into the lead in the fourth, but Memphis was able to stay in front with Randolph scoring 11 points in the final period.

Suns 117, Rockets 102

In Houston, Eric Bledsoe had a career-high 34 points and Phoenix withstood a fourthquarter charge by Houston.

Bledsoe scored 23 by halftime and surpassed his previous career best of 33 points, set earlier this season, on a free throw with about a minute remaining.

Phoenix led by 15 early in the fourth quarter when Houston used a 14-4 run to cut it to 105-100 with 5 minutes left. Neither team had scored for about 2 1/2 minutes when P.J. Tucker made a 3-pointer that started a 12-0 spurt by the Suns that secured the victory.

Donatas Motiejunas had 18 points for the Rockets and James Harden added 16 after scoring a career-high 50 in Thursday's win over Denver.

Phoenix's victory snapped a three-game winning streak for Houston and allowed the Suns to avoid a season sweep by the Rockets.

Nets 123, Pacers 111

In Indianapolis, Brook Lopez had 26 points and four blocked shots to lead Brooklyn over slumping Indiana.

Bojan Bogdanovic added 21 points and five rebounds off the bench, and Deron Williams scored 17 for the Nets, who have won four of five.

George Hill had 18 points and nine assists for the Pacers (3039), who lost their fifth straight. Brooklyn pulled away for

good when Joe Johnson converted a three-point play and Bogdanovic made a 3-pointer to put the Nets ahead 109-100 with 4 minutes remaining.

A win for the Pacers would have put them in sole possession of eighth place in the Eastern Conference. Instead, the Nets (29-39) closed the gap in a crowded race for the final playoff spot.

Pistons 107, Bulls 91

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Reggie Jackson had 22 points, including 17 in the third quarter as Detroit came back from a 19-point deficit to beat Chicago.

The Pistons trailed 72-53 with 7 minutes left in the third quarter, but got a combined 27 points and 13 assists from Jackson and fellow point guard Spencer Dinwiddie in the second half.

Detroit had already taken an 80-79 lead by the start of

the fourth. In all, the Pistons outscored the Bulls 47-11 in a 16-minute stretch spanning the final two quarters.

Pau Gasol had 27 points and 10 rebounds for Chicago.

Warriors 106, Jazz 91

In Oakland, California, Stephen Curry bounced back from his worst shooting performance of the season to score 24 points, and Leandro Barbosa added a season-high 19 off the bench as Golden State pulled away late to beat Utah.

One day after shooting 4 of 17 in a win over New Orleans, Curry went 8 of 18 from the floor against a Utah defense that had been the NBA's stingiest over the past three weeks.

Draymond Green added 15 points, six rebounds and seven assists for the Warriors (56-13), who have the best record in the NBA.

Derrick Favors had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Jazz. Utah lost for only the fourth time since the All-Star break.

Kentucky stays on unbeaten path, Nova first No. 1-and-done



Two down, four to go for the Kentucky Wildcats as they try to become the first

unbeaten national champion since Indiana in 1976. Villanova became the first top seed out as it lost to North Carolina State, while UCLA came up with a second win in the tournament, not bad for a team that many said didn't even belong in the field of 68.

The Atlantic Coast Conference continued its so-far perfect tournament run with wins by NC State, North Carolina and Notre Dame.

EAST REGION NC State 71, Villanova 68

In Pittsburgh, N.C. State is back in the Sweet 16, attacking one of the top teams in the nation for 40 minutes and stunning Villanova 71-68 on Saturday night. The Wolfpack went wild as the final horn sounded and danced around the court in celebration.

No, it wasn't quite Jim Valvano's mad dash after the Wolfpack won the 1983 national championship. But the Wolfpack (22-13) have designs on their own big March run. They will move on to Syracuse, New York to play the winner of the Louisville-Northern Iowa game.

N.C. State guards Cat Barber and Desmond Lee shared a long embrace after buzzer. Barber pounded his chest and said, "all heart!'

Lacey led them with 17 points and Barber had 13, each coming with big buckets to hold off a late Villanova charge.

The Wildcats saw a 16-game winning streak end and have not

reached the second weekend since 2009.

SOUTH REGION Utah 75, Georgetown

In Portland, Ore., Brandon Taylor scored 14 points and Delon Wright added 12 and the fifthseeded Utah beat No. 4 Georgetown 75-64 on Saturday night.

The Utes (26-8) will travel to Houston to play the winner of Sunday's game in Charlotte, North Carolina, between topseeded Duke (30-4) and No. 8 San Diego State (27-8).

Utah hasn't advanced to the Sweet 16 since 2005, when the Utes fell as the No. 6 seed to No. 2 Kentucky. The Utes are making their first tournament appearance since 2009.

UCLA 92, UAB 75

In Louisville, Kentucky, Tony Parker led five Bruins in double figures with a career-high 28 points and grabbed 12 rebounds for 11th-seeded UCLA on Saturday to advance to its second straight Sweet 16.

The Bruins (22-13), the team many thought shouldn't have even been in the field of 68, have won six of their last seven games in earning their first consecutive Sweet 16 berths since reaching the Final Four three straight seasons between 2006 and 2008. They will play either Gonzaga or Iowa on Friday in the South Regional semifinal in

Kevon Looney had 10 points and 11 rebounds for UCLA. Bryce Alford had 22 points, Norman Powell 15 and Isaac Hamilton 13.

The 14th-seeded Blazers (20-16) missed out on their first regional semifinal since 2004 coming off their big upset of No. 3 seed Iowa State on Thurs-



day. Robert Brown led the Blazers with 25 points and William Lee added 10.

MIDWEST REGION Kentucky 64, Cincinnati 51

In Louisville, Ky., Aaron Harrison scored 13 points and Trey Lyles added 11 points and 11 rebounds and top-ranked Kentucky outworked eighth-seeded Cincinnati to remain undefeated and reach the Sweet 16 for the second straight season.

Despite the Wildcats' sixth straight double-digit win, they faced their toughest test in a while and didn't seem totally in control until the final minutes.

made Kentucky work hard for every shot and rebound in an intense contest.

But the Wildcats (36-0) succeeded by making life difficult on both ends for Cincinnati, holding the Bearcats to 32 percent shooting including just 24 percent in the second half. Kentucky blocked six shots after halftime and Willie Cauley-Stein had a highlight-reel slam dunk that may be the play of the tournament.

The Wildcats move on to face the Maryland-West Virginia winner in the Midwest Regional on Thursday in Cleveland.

Butler 64 (OT)

In Pittsburgh, Jerian Grant scored 16 points, including the clinching layup with 18 seconds left in overtime, and the thirdseeded Notre Dame edged the Butler 67-64.

Notre Dame (31-5) moved on to the Sweet 16 for the first time since 2003 and will play Kansas or Wichita State in the Midwest Regional semifinals on Thursday in Cleveland.

Steve Vasturia led Notre Dame with 20 points. Demetrius Jackson added 13 points, and Zach Auguste had seven points and 13 rebounds for the Irish, which beat the Bulldogs for the first time in 26 years.

Roosevelt Jones played through an injured left knee while scoring 23 points for Butler (23-11), but another this NCAA run ended abruptly in the extra session.

WEST REGION Arizona 73, Ohio St. 58

In Portland, Oregon, Gabe York made five 3-pointers and finished with 19 points and T.J. McConnell also scored 19 points as second-seeded Arizona advanced to the Sweet 16 for the third straight year.

The Wildcats (33-3) overcame a sluggish start until their outside shooting busted the Buckeyes' zone defense, which they rarely used during the regular season but broke out for the NCAA Tournament. The Pac-12 champions went ahead by 15 points with 6:34 remaining and held off 10th-seeded Ohio State (24-11) in the closing minutes.

Arizona will face the winner of Xavier-Georgia State in the West Regional semifinals Thursday in Los Angeles.

The Buckeyes gave the Wildcats all they could handle, Kentucky forward Willie Cauley-Stein dunks over Cincinnati forward Quadri Moore during the first half of an NCAA tournament college basketball game in Louisville, Ky., Saturday, March 21,

even with standout freshman D'Angelo Russell struggling with his shot. Russell scored nine points and made just 3 of 19 shots after going for 28 points in Ohio State's overtime win over VCU in its tournament opener. He had seven rebounds and six assists.

Sam Thompson added 18 points and Shannon Scott scored 10 for the Buckeyes, who led by six points in the first half but never could match Arizona's size. The Wildcats won the rebounding battle 43-26.

Xavier 75 **Georgia State 67**

In Jacksonville, Florida, Jalen Reynolds and Myles Davis came off the bench for a combined 38 points as sixth-seeded Xavier end the biggest feel-good story of the NCAA Tournament with a 75-67 victory over Georgia State on Saturday night.

The Musketeers (23-13) advanced to the Sweet 16 for the third time in six years under coach Chris Mack. They'll face No. 2 seed Arizona—a 73-58 winner over Ohio State-in the West Regional semifinals in Los Angeles.

No. 14 seed Georgia State (25-10), whose injured coach Ron Hunter worked the sideline in a rolling chair, upset No. 3 seed Baylor Thursday. Hunter, who tore his Achilles tendon celebrating his team winning the Sun Belt Conference title, and his son and star player, RJ, became the darlings of the tournament.

North Carolina 87, Arkansas 76

In Jacksonville, Florida, Marcus Paige scored 22 points, including 20 in the second half, as North Carolina beat Arkansas 87-78 in the NCAA Tournament on Saturday and advanced to the Sweet 16 for the first time in three years.

Paige missed seven of eight shots in the first half, including all three from 3-point range, and was pretty much a non-factor as the Tar Heels let the Razorbacks keep things close.

But the junior guard took over in the second half, scoring 13 of his team's 17 points during a 5-minute stretch that helped North Carolina build a doubledigit lead. The Tar Heels held on from there, thanks partly to Paige closing things out from the free-throw line and with his ball-handling skills.

UNC advanced to play either No. 1 seed Wisconsin or eighthseeded Oregon in the West Regional next week in Los Angeles. It will be Carolina's 26th appearance in the Sweet 16.

Michael Qualls led Arkansas with 27 points and 10 rebounds. Bobby Portis finished with 18 points and 14 boards.

Stenson leads at Bay Hill with a late surge

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)— Henrik Stenson has shown a remarkable finishing kick at Bay Hill.

Seven shots out of the lead in the second round. Stenson closed with four straight birdies for a 66 to stay close. On Saturday, he was two shots behind when he again played the final four holes in 4-under par, including a 20-foot eagle putt.

That gave him another 66, and a two-shot lead going into the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

"Four under in the last four holes ... that normally moves you in the right direction," Stenson said.

All that's left is for the Swede to finish off the tournament, and he realizes the task is just starting.

Stenson will play in the final group Sunday with Morgan Hoffmann, who stumbled on the front nine, recovered with three birdies in four holes and then stalled over the last four holes with pars for a 71.

Six players are separated by three shots going into the final round, a group that includes defending champion Matt Every.

"It's a new day tomorrow, so whatever has happened these first three days has

position," Stenson said. "But it's got to be done all over INVITATIONAL tomorrow."

Rory McIlroy looked as though he would be among the contend-

The world's No. 1 player pulled to within one shot of the lead with his fourth birdie of the round on the 13th hole. But he ran off three straight bogeys, missing a par putt from just inside 3 feet on No. 15 and chopping up the par-5 16th hole. McIlroy effectively gave up two shots to the field on the 16th, where only one other player failed to make par or better.

McIlroy missed the cut in the Honda Classic and finished eight shots behind at Doral. Asked if Bay Hill counted as being in contention, he replied, "Not anymore."

> "I guess if I can get off to the fast start tomorrow ... maybe I will have a chance," he said. "It would have been nicer to be a little closer to the lead

going into tomorrow." Stenson, the No. 3 player in the world, was at 16-under 200.

A two-shot lead can disappear quickly, especially on the back nine. Even so, Stenson has been steady during his three stops on the Florida swing. He tied for fourth at Doral, and missed the threeman playoff at Innisbrook by one shot last week.

Hoffmann regained the lead with back-to-back birdies early on the back nine, but his tee shot rolled up to the lip of a bunker on par-5 16th and he was one of only two players in the third round who had to lay up short of the creek. Hoffmann had to settle for pars, though he was still in the final group with Stenson

Every had a 69 and was in the group at 13-under 203 that included Jason Kokrak (65), Matt Jones (67) and Las Vegas winner Ben Martin (68). Jones birdied his last four holes, including a 75-foot putt across the green at the par-3 17th.

Hoffmann had a chance to limit the number of contenders if he had posted a better score. The scoring average was low again because of slow, receptive greens this week. But he kept getting funny lies in the fairway, mud on his ball and a few breaks that didn't go his way.

Last games to determine batting champ

By JON PEREZ REPORTER



final two games of the 2015 Saipan Baseball League would determine the batting

champion with three players in the running for the individual award.

Nokki Saralu of the defending champion GSM Brewers, the Saipan Stevedore Yankees' Gary Cruz, and the Jets' Davie Matagolai are vying for the league's top batting award.

Saralu is currently on top with a .576 average, either Cruz or Matagolai, who are at second and third, respectively, are mathematically possible to clinch the title.

Saralu must not be too complacent as Cruz, the former batting leader, and Matagolai posted .463 and .462 averages apiece.

One bad or good swing from each of the three sluggers could swing the numbers to their favor.

Ricardo Dela Cruz (North Starz, .405); Jimmy Brel (Fielders, .400); Verlance Secharmidal (Fielders, .368); Jun Rabauliman (Brewers, .361); Pat Alepuyo (Brewers, .357); Keola Camacho (Jets, .355); A.J. Lizama (Falcons, .353); Jerome Delos Santos (Yankees, .350); Marvin Kaipat (Brewers, .343); Goro Iskawa (Falcons, .333); Cedric Ada (Fielders, .326); and Brian Camacho (Yankees, .310) complete the batting list.

Lizama remains the top homerun hitter with two, while Delos Santos is on his way to claiming the most runs scored this season with 17, while Ben Jones Jr., Peter Tomokane, Dela Cruz, Secharmidal, and Cruz have 14 each.

Cruz still had the most RBIs with 21 followed by Yankees teammate Camacho (17) and the Fielders' Secharmidal (12), who leads the triples department with four while Saralu remain on top in doubles with six.

Brewers ace hurler Vince

Cepeda continues to lead the pitching department with a 1.11 ERA and 54 strikeouts.

Falcon teammates Lizama and Peter Lieto are in second and third with 1.38 and 1.61, respectively, followed by the 1.73 of the Fielders' Joe Palacios.

The Falcons' Dave Jones (2.25), Jonathan Tenorio of the North Starz (3.00), Yankees teammates Peter Tenorio (3.46) and Kelvin Kapileo (3.86), Mike Muna of the Jets (4.05), and the North Starz's Richard Dela Cruz (4.20) complete the ERA list.

Lieto (45), Muna (42), and Palacios (37) are the other pitchers with the most strikeouts this season.

The defending champion GSM Brewers take on the Jets at 7pm tonight at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field, while the Saipan Stevedore Northern Yankees battle the Falcons with the pennant also at stake.

Tight race seen in three darts league divisions

jon_perez@saipantribune.com REPORTER



If things won't change, a tight race for the title can be seen in three divisions of

the Bud Light-Saipan Electronic Darts Association Winter/Spring 2015 season with matches held in various bars on the island.

Three teams backed by Na-

ked Fish are among the title contenders in the Flame Tree Thursday B category, while two squads each supported by Jokers and Sand Juvy equaled the feat in the Chichirika C and Masters divisions.

The Naked Fish One Shot are on top of the Flame Tree Thursday B division with a 36-24 card to enjoy a two-game edge over sister team Naked Fish Na'Gupu and Jonny's Kyodai's 24-26 slates. The Ridin'Darrty, Naked Fish's third team, is at fourth with 32-28.

Sand Juvy Shoot Balut and TDI Summit both have 42-26 records followed closely by the Jokers Destroyers' 41-27 mark.

The Jokers Tokers are one game ahead with a 46-14 card over Abyss DNA Jump It's 45-15 standing in the Chichirika C division with the Darty Flight at 40-20.

Masters

■ Shoot Balut 15, Darting Chelu's 2

■ TDI Summit 9, Destrovers 8

■ Pythons 10, Scratch 'N' Sniff 7

A Division

■ Predators 9, Sakude 8

- Voyagers 10, Snipers 7
- Mafia 13, No Fear 4
- Huntlaw 11, Warriors 6
- Ridin'Darrty 12, 101 Proofers 5



The Jokers Atarashi Boyz celebrate their 12-3 win over the Smoke Pub Titans in the Tuesday B division in the Bud Light-Saipan Electronic Darts Association league last week.

Ladies

- Vicious Darties 9, Try Luck 6
- Kitty Kats 12, Pasawayz 3
- Dartaholics 9, Dabarkadz 6

Tuesday B

- Pasaways 11, Like It Or Not 4
- Atarashi Boys 12,

Titans 3

- Fanihi B ■ Latte Sparts 12, Team Fearless 3
 - Mixblood 9, 80 Proofers 6
- Preba Darts 9, Sunrisers 6
- Dragon Warriors 9, Warriors 6

Flame Tree

- Ridin'Darrty 11, Snipers 4
- One Shot 9, Serial Killaz 6
- Sakude 11, No Fear 4
- Real Deal 8, Na'Gupu 7

Kingfisher C

- Dart Knights 11, Sea Ricks 4
- Highflyers 9, Chagi Fan 6
- Spartans 9, Hafa Mas 6
- Jump It 12, Blue Koi's 3

ALLEN

From Page 28

lead against the rest of the guys chasing me," said Allen, who managed to keep his distance against Russia's Aleksandr Dorovskikh (4:26:59) and France's Olivier Marceau (4:29:53) despite a wrong turn in the bike leg.

Allen, who missed last year's Half Ironman race, was heading south to Pacific Islands Club, but a volunteer near the Garapan Fire Station instructed him to return and go to the American Memorial Park. There was also no lead

car to direct Allen, who lost more than two seconds of his lead against Dorovskikh after that confusion. Allen clocked in at 2:22:12 in the bike leg against the 2:19:50 of the Russian bet.

last week.

Fortunately for the Australian pro he was able to gain cushion in the swim leg at PIC as he was first out of the water, submitting 24:50. Marceau finished second in the swim race with his 25:29, while Dorovskikh was ninth, logging 31:00.

Both Dorovskikh and Marceau were just entering the AMP compound for the bike-run transition area when Allen completed the bike leg and headed out of the park and south for the final part of the

The Sands Bar Dragon Warriors pose for a group photo before their

match in the Bud Light-Saipan Electronic Darts Association league

"I tried to regain my focus after that problem in the bike race. The run leg was a killer because of the heat so I just kept on pacing myself," said Allen, who had the fastest time among the men's pro in the run leg with his 1:35:15.

Saipan pride

Meanwhile, Carey blew away her competitors in the women's division as she was the only female pro to complete

in the third.

David Cruz and Aurel Mendiola shared pitching duties for the Comets, surrendering a combined four earned runs on five hits with four strikeouts

homerun in the first inning, and an 11-run second had the Comets zooming to a 24-2 win over the Fielders.

triples in the second and third innings, respectively.

the Fielders escaped with a 9-8 decision over the Padres last Tuesday, March 17, with Jose Lizama surrendering five earned runs on seven hits with seven strikeouts and four

the race in sweltering heat under five hours.

"This win is for Saipan, for my family, friends, and supporters here. It's always great to win on Saipan, which I consider my home," said the now Guam-based Carey, who received a loud cheer from the spectators as she crossed the finish line with a wide smile on her face.

"I had a very good swim, good bike race, and nice run despite the heat. In the run, I kept reminding myself not to push so hard because I am worried of getting cramps again," added Carey, who slid to third from second last year after cramping midway in the run leg.

Carey was not pressured to push further in the last part of the race, as she gained a sizeable lead after the first two legs. She was third overall out of the water after clocking 25:49, about five minutes ahead of the runner-up Renata Bucher. Carey padded her lead after the bike leg, as she recorded 2:00:59 against the

2:39:12 of Bucher.

In the run, Carey completely dominated her field after registering 1:43:14.

"Although I know I had a big lead, still I was cautious. I kept looking back after each 5K. It was really hot during the run leg, but I managed because I had good nutrition and hydration," Carey added.

Bucher and Daz Park, who completed the race in 5:15:54 and 5:18:59, respectively, agreed with Carey, saying the run leg took its toll on them.

"The last 2K of the run was the most difficult part. I was gassed out with the heat. The run leg was longer than I thought," said Parker, who had split times of 33:21, 2:46:09, and 1:59:29, falling behind early as she was caught in between two swimmers while doing the first of the two-lap race.

"The heat was brutal and I am just glad I made it safely and will still have energy for next weekend's XTERRA Saipan," said Bucher.

Australia's Belinda Hadden

and Saipan's very own Kimiko McKagan completed the women's pro field, timing in at 5:33:02 and 6:10:46, respectively. Last year's champion Carina Wasle, who decided to join yesterday's race at the last minute, did not finish after an early flat tire.

"It will be difficult to catch up with me still near PIC and Mieko and company several minutes ahead, I will just burn out and will not be able to recover in time for XTERRA Saipan so I decided not to continue the race," said Wasle.

Wasle was in a good place after the swim leg, as she clocked in 30:48 and third out of the water in the women's pro division and seventh overall. However, she lost precious minutes in the second part of the race as before the flat tire, she made a wrong turn in the bike leg. She said volunteers were just asking bikers if bikers were entered in the Half Ironman or Olympic distance event, but failed to point her to the right direction in the bike leg.

RED SOX

From Page 28

week.

SENIORS Red Sox 16, Braves O

The Red Sox bounced back with consecutive shutout wins over the Braves in both Saturday matches. They coasted to a 5-0 decision last week and followed it up with a 16-0 mauling on Saturday.

Nate Camacho pitched onehit in five shutout innings on March 21 with 10 strikeouts and one walk. Richard Atalig preserved the win in the fifth striking out lead-off batter Benen Iguel.

He then gave up an infield single to Keuni Kannoa, but

the latter was tagged out in a 2-4 putout play while attempting to steal second base. Atalig then walked Frankie Lifoifoi, who stole second.

Atalig left Lifoifoi stranded on base after forcing Logan Martin to ground out on second for a 4-3 putout play.

Last week, Craig Aguon surrendered two hits in six innings in the start, striking out nine and walking three in the Red Sox's 5-0 win last week.

Comets 16, Fielders 6

Franko Nakamura went 5-for-5 with one run, and two RBIs and was a home run short of making the cycle in the shortened game. He singled in the first, fourth, and sixth, doubled in the second, and tripled

and three walks.

Ton Ilo's inside-the-park

Lorenzo Sebakim had two

In the Big League division,

KAGA

From Page 28

Ayaka Sato (53:58.98), Natsuki Nagata (1:01:29), Risa Sekiguchi (1:01:29), and Susana Villagomez (1:10:11).

Meanwhile, Isaiah Aleksenko, Andrei Kaithlyn Chaves, and Christian Villacrusis were the winners in the two other races.

Aleksenko topped the boys 6 to 8 age group, completing the 100m swim, 5K bike, and 1K run in 15:41.01, while Chavez submitted 19:48.68 with split times of 4:27.26, 6:55.03, and 8:26.39. Aleksenko defeated Wataru Kadokura (18:44.26), Dino (19:56.7) and Kengo (25:04.60) Sato and Cojiro Kaga (25:54.99).

In the 13 to 15 division, Villacrusis was the lone entry and capped the 300m swim, 15K bike, and 3K run in 59:57.46. The SSC swimmer registered 12:32.34 in the three-lap swim leg, 22:37.60 in the run, and 35:09.94.

MHS is first MISO tennis champions



By JON PEREZ

jon_perez@ REPORTER

Marianas High School overcame a slow start to clinch the inaugural Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization co-ed high school tennis crown last Saturday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

It was MHS' fourth straight title in the 2014-2015 MISO season after also ruling girls volleyball and boys and girls basketball.

MHS dropped its first two singles matches against Saipan International School by default but managed to hang on before escaping with a 5-4 decision.

The Dolphins and the Geckos played three matches each in the boys and girls singles, one game apiece in the boys and girls dou-

Sun Palace Hotel are the latest

sponsors of Northern Mariana

With four national football

teams training for international

competitions this year, the two

companies showed their sup-

port to the squads by donating

\$1,000 worth of training jerseys

Islands Football Association.

bles, and one in mixed doubles.

SIS' Colin Ramsey and Julia Ishikawa gave the Geckos an early 2-0 lead after winning by walkovers against Tommy Choi and Negahr Rastguiy, who both skipped the opening singles matches.

The Geckos were a win away when they went up 4-2 after Luther Lizama and Michael Ren scored similar 6-1 decisions in the boys singles over Steven Lee and Brandon Masga, respectively.

Mika Lopez and Emily Jones kept the Dolphins in the contest by pulling off wins over Isabel Heras (6-1) and Adele Hudkins (6-2), respectively.

SIS, however, squandered their advantage and allowed the Dolphins to win the last three

donated two training jerseys

boys national team

selection pools. Sun

Palace Hotel, on the

two training jerseys

for players on the U15 and U18

Let's Go! Tour Company and each. Let's Go! Tour Company

matches in the doubles events.

Masga and Lee teamed up in the boys doubles in pulling off a 6-4, 6-4 triumph over Ren and Chris Park, while Rastguiy and Jones scored a 6-1 demolition over Ishikawa and Hudkins to tie the count at 4-4.

> Choi and Lopez then took advantage of a number of unforced errors by the Geckos' Heras and

Lizama for a 6-1 decision that completed the Dolphins' comeback.

It was a double black eye for SIS as it also suffered a 7-2 setback against Saipan Community School in the junior high division. SCS swept the matches in the boys singles and all doubles events.

Vincent Tudela overpowered A.J. Hudkins, 6-1; Ken Song

tion pools.

Northern

Mariana Islands

Women's National Team selec- Team will follow suit in July

other hand, donated Football Association Girls

needed a tiebreak in beating Clayton Izuka, 7-6 (6); while Haruya Eda blanked Daniele Colombo, 6-0. Carol Lee won in the girls singles scoring a 6-0 crushing of Tania Tan.

It made up for Mimi Sakano and Conatsu Kaga losing their respective girls singles matches against Malika Miyawaki, 2-6, and Ami Tsukagoshi, 3-6.

Tudela and Song blitzed past Hudkins and Michael Lee, 6-0, in the boys doubles; Sakano teamed up with Kaga to beat Tsukogoshi and Miyawaki, 6-2; while Lee and Eda tripped Tan and Izuka in the mixed doubles, 6-1.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Federation president Jeff Race served as the tournament coordinator for the oneday event.

for the Hong Kong Cup, while the CNMI U14 Boys will also be going to Beijing in September for the AFC U14 Festival. Although the locations are not yet announced, the CNMI is also sending teams to the AFC U16 Championship 2016 Qualifier set for September and the

D&Q Saipan signed a threeyear sponsorship worth \$30,000 and it will cover NMIFA's women's programs. The sponsorship also includes the renaming of the NMIFA women's league to "Dove Women's Football League." This pact shows how football in the CNMI is totally committed to girls and women players. (NMIFA)

Sonics drew first blood in UFO caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com

The Sonics/LIPS had a rousing start in the 2015 United Filipino Organization Basketball League after beating Gilas/MDX, 69-59, in their U20 division game last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Jesse Tudela-coached

Sonics won their first match in the opening day of the UFO league after turning on the heat early, period with the vicbuilding a doubledigit spread at the end of the first period, 23-8. Five different players scored for the Sonics in the opening canto with new recruit Mii Tekopua leading the team with his 6 points.

Tekopua and the other tall players of the Sonics capitalized on their height advantage to get easy points in the paint against Gilas in the first period. Gilas, on the other hand, struggled offensively, as coach Jay Diyco's players were still getting the feel of each other's game. Majority of Gilas players are joining an organized league for the first time against the battletested Sonics.

Gilas picked up its scoring in the second period with Lawrence Diyco and Ronnie Sto. Domingo hitting successive baskets, but the Sonics still outgunned them, 21-18, to keep the twin-digit advantage at the break, 44-26. Again, the Sonics leaned on a balanced offense with seven players making it to the board to end the halftime with the 18-point lead.

The Sonics went on retain the double-figure spread in the second half despite converting only four field goals in the final quarter, which saw Gilas knocking in several outside shots to bring down the deficit to a decent number.

The Sonics settled for the 10-point win in the end after enjoying their biggest lead in the match at 26, 61-35, as they let their guards down

tory already in the bag.

Tekopua paced the Sonics with his

12 points, while Bryl Alegre and Sean Rabasto chipped in 10 each. The six remaining Sonics players who saw action in the team's debut game contributed at least 4 points apiece.

Sto. Domingo had a gamehigh 14 for Gilas, while Chico Bondoc was the other double-figure scorer for the team with his 10 markers.

Meanwhile, the other game in the opening of the UFO caging featured a Masters match-up between Blue Haus and Motion Auto. Results of the Masters game will be reported later this

Sonics/LIPS Tekopua 12, Alegre 10, Rabasto 10, Dela Rosa 9, Flores 8, De Guzman 6, Ogasawara 4, Javier 4, Ito 4.

Gilas/MDX 59 – Sto. Domingo 14, Bondoc 10, Igrobay 7, Diyco 7, Salalila 6, Espinosa 4, Rivera 4, Aque 3, Raquepo 2, Esmundo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-8, 44-26, 61-35, 69-59.

Let's Go!, Sun Palace support CNMI teams The CNMI U14 Girls National Team will play in Bei-

jing, China from May 19 to 24 for the AFC U14 Regional AFC U19 Championships 2016 Championships Oualifier slated for October. for players on the U14 girls and 2015. The Women's National

Meanwhile, these donations followed recent announcements of two other major sponsors, Soccer Junky and D&Q Saipan. The Japanese apparel company just signed an agreement to sponsor the uniforms of all our four national teams. That donation for 2015 is worth about \$41,000. NMIFA technical director and head coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi was instrumental in convincing Soccer Junky to support the CNMI national teams.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Let's Go! and Sun Palace officials and NMIFA officers pose with the donated training jerseys for the CNMI national teams during a presentation ceremony at the NMIFA office in Garapan recently.



The Sonics' Bryle Alegre goes up for a left-handed layup against Gilas' Lawrence Diyco during the fourth quarter of their game in the U20 division of the UFO caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.





28 MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Allen, Carey beat heat, competition



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

over the Red Sox in

the Juniors division

of the Saipan Little League on Saturday

at the Francisco M.

Baseball Field.

the Red Sox.

16-2.

Ian Ko Palacios

Rangamar went 3-for-3

with a double in the third in-

ning, scored three times, and had one RBI as the Enforcers

made it two in a row against

the Red Sox in another match cut short by the mercy rule,

Maratita lasted five innings

against the Red Sox on Satur-

The Enforcers also defeated

ustralian pro Ben Allen and former Saipan triathlete Mieko Carey survived the scorching heat yesterday to take the men's and women's division crowns in the 2015 Tagaman Triathlon.

Allen completed 1.9-kilometer swim, 90K bike, and 21K run race in 4:22:17 to lead all finishers in the grueling Half Ironman event and topped the six-man men's field, while Carey also broke the five-hour barrier with her 4:48:15.

"It was definitely one of toughest the races I've ever done. The heat and humidity were intense, my whole body was on fire, especially on the run. I worked really hard on the bike to sustain my

See ALLEN on Page 26

Enforcers make it two vs Red Sox

By JON PEREZ

Kaga and Sato lead Taga Kids winners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Twenty-five joined last Saturday's 2015 Taga Kids with Saipan Swim Club's Taiga

Sato and Conatsu Kaga among the top finishers in the weekend race held around the American Memorial Park.

Sato was the overall No. 1 finisher in the 9 to 12 age group, completing the 200-meter swim, 10K bike, and 2K run in 36:30.73. He bested eight other boys finishers in his division and had split times of 6:10.42 in the one-lap swim in the waters off Mi- Sato cro Beach, 15:28.08 in the two-lap bike leg, and

Kaga

Rintaro Miyawaki, who had the fastest time in the run leg despite starting to run barefoot on his way to finishing the first lap, came in at second with a combined time of 38:54.72 (splits of 6:40.41, 17:29.79, and 14:44.52). Rinto Takahashi rounded out the Top 3

after logging 40:34.87 and

posting split times of 6:32.87,

14:52.22 in the two-lap run

16:59.57, and 17:02.43.

Other finishers in the boys 9 to 12 division were Akira Kadokura (43:01.96), Jinnosuke Suzuki (45:19.50), Kaden Church (45:25.19),

> Takahashi Leo (51:09.32), Taiyo Akimaru (54:32.33), and Richard Villagomez (59:39.29). In the girls divi-

sion, Conatsu prevailed against seven others with her third-best time of 39:16.17. Conatsu had 6:28.71 in the swim leg and registered 16:45.50 and 16:31.96 in the bike and run parts, respectively.

Jin Ju Thompson and Rei Sekiguchi joined Conatsu in

the podium with the former completing the second longest race of the day in 42:29.86 (splits of 6:24.99, 17:06.52, and 18:58.35). Rei Sekiguchi had split times of 6:48.69, 20:17.22, and 15:34.65 for a combined time of 42:40.56.

Conatsu's younger sister, Coume (50:21.98), finished fourth and was followed by

> See KAGA on Page 26

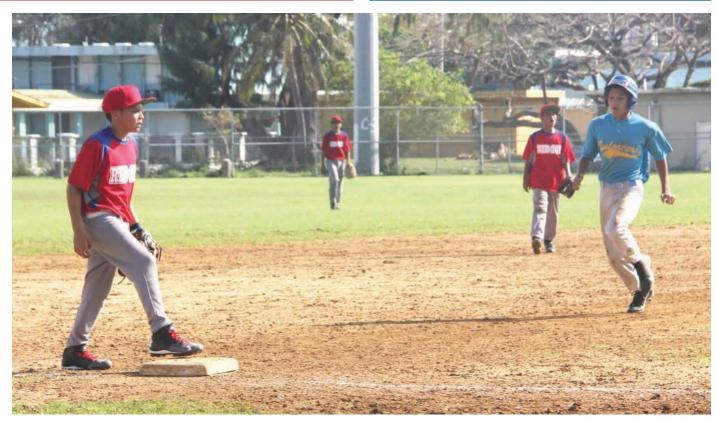
Shakobe Rangamar led the Enday giving up two earned runs forcers to a shortened 13-3 win on five hits with one strikeout and three walks. He had plenty of help from

the defense, who was busy catching fly balls and completing putout plays. Maratita also pitched for

five innings in the Enforcers' win over the same last week giving up a three-hit game with two earned runs, fanning six while walking six more.

Ignacio Mendiola's insidethe-park homerun highlighted the Enforcers' seven-run sixth inning against the Red Sox last

> See RED SOX on Page 26



The Enforcers' Blade Igitol, right, slows down as he nears third base in their game against the Red Sox in the Juniors division of the Saipan Little League last Saturday at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios